

3-1996

## Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association Newsletter

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# Newsletter

*The Newsletter of the  
Patent & Trademark  
Depository Library  
Association*

*Volume 8 • (Issue 10)  
March 1996*

## *Dedication*

*This issue of the PTDLA NEWSLETTER is dedicated to Carole Shores*



*Carole Shores is a friend to the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program and to the many librarians who have worked at the PTDLs over the years. She has been a tireless advocate for us at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. It is with many thanks that the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to Carole.*

### **Carole Shores: A Retirement Celebration**

Billie Connor, Department Manager, Science, Technology, & Patents Department, Los Angeles, California

I was privileged to be able to participate in the retirement celebration for Carole Shores held on Wednesday, January 17, 1996 at the Crystal City Marriott Hotel. More than one hundred friends and admirers of this great lady slogged through the remnants of the great blizzard of '96 to honor her at a sumptuous luncheon followed by a well planned program put together by a committee of devoted co-workers. Had it been possible, ignoring barriers of time, geography and weather, there's no doubt that hundreds of present and past Patent and Trademark Depository Library information professionals would have been there with Betsey Lowther (Philadelphia PTDL) and me, cheering. Without Carole, the PTDL program would never have reached its present stature - there's no doubt about it.

My first recollection of Carole Shores was at the third PTO/PDL (before we added Trademark to our name!) training conference when I attended as a person new to the

program, but representing a library which was one of the first ten. Carole was then assistant to Ethan Hurd, her predecessor in charge of the depository library program, and had worked with him to put together the conference. I was impressed by her excellent organizational skills, her obvious understanding of the importance of the libraries to the PTO's mission of disseminating information nationwide, and her inspiring leadership abilities. Together with Ethan, and after his retirement, she was to lead this program to unprecedented growth and effectiveness.

Some of the greatest accomplishments were realized when she worked as a team with William S. Lawson, former Administrator for Search and Information Resources, when CASSIS migrated from an expensive online database to the more economical and practical CD-ROM format that we have today. Bringing trademark information dissemination into full partnership with patent information for the libraries and bringing the Automated Patent System (APS) to the PTDLs were other achievements.

To keep the PTDL Program healthy and growing, many activities and communication methods were devised and used: "Accessing Patent and Trademark Information" seminars, exhibits at conferences for information professionals, the annual training conferences to keep PTDLs current and skillful, communication through mail, fax, e-mail, and the 800 telephone number.

The Fellows program was realized under Carole's leadership, with Jim Arshem being the first of a steady stream of outstanding intellectual property information professionals

PTDLA PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER is the official publication of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA), representing the libraries designated as public search collections throughout the United States by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO). It is designed to share news and activities of the Association and its members beyond the scope of *Ad Libs*, the official PTO Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program (PTDLP) publication. It is distributed free to members of the Association, PTO/PTDLP, and other interested parties. Frequency is irregular.

Editor (1996): Christina Byrne, Seattle, WA, PTDL; Intellectual Property News Co-editor: Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX, PTDL.



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who have enhanced both the PTO's and their own capabilities by working for a year or longer with the PTDL program while on leave from their institutions. This experience seems to have had an addictive quality, as several fellows have gone on to fashion careers at the PTO. Martha Crockett Sneed, from the Detroit Public Library, and Mande Putnam, from another PTDL, were attracted by Carole's dedication and came to the program office without first serving as Fellows. Fostering dedication and performance excellence in others have been other attributes of Carole's.

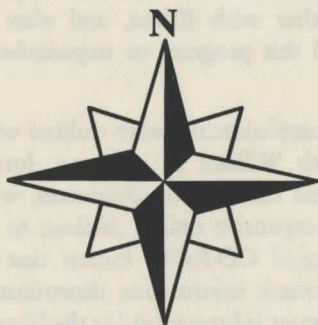
Others can detail more accomplishments of Carole Shores in her career at the PTO, I am sure. I just wish to pay her tribute:

- For what she has meant to the PTDLs and to the growth of available intellectual property information throughout the United States, and

- For her wonderful friendship to me, especially following the Los Angeles PTDL's fire in 1986, which destroyed the entire collection.

We will miss her, but her inspiration will help to guide us in the years to come.

### PTDLA President's Report



1995-96 has been a year of growth for the Association. During this year we reached a record number of paid members with 94 members as of December 1. This reflects not only an increase in the number of PTDLs but also, I hope, in the value PTDL librarians see in

PTDLA membership.

This year has also been a year of change. In August, Carole Shores, the Director of the Center for Patent and Trademark Information and former manager of the PTDL Program, announced her retirement effective January 3. The PTDLA is pleased to have the opportunity at the Commissioner's Reception at conference and through the PTDLA Newsletter to honor Carole and her career at the PTO.

With Ethan Hurd, Carole convened the very first conference of PTDL (then PDL) librarians in 1977. At my library, where one of our librarians was among the 18 people crowded in a small PTO office in Crystal City for the two-day conference, Carole is a legend not just for what she has accomplished during her tenure but perhaps more importantly for the way she has accomplished what she has. While it was always clear that the PTDL Program was very important to Carole, she made the people involved in carrying out the program feel equally important. We are

fortunate that this gracious and helpful attitude has been carried forward by Martha Sneed and her staff.

In November, Jean Rozett, PTDLA President-elect and PTDL representative from New Haven, CT, resigned her position at her PTDL and consequently with the Association. This will be a definite loss for PTDLA and for the patrons served by her PTDL. Jean has been a thoughtful and articulate spokesperson for PTDLA and for the unique economic development role PTDLs can play. Jean's successor, who will be elected as part of the regular PTDLA elections prior to conference, will take office as PTDLA president immediately at the end of conference.

In December, Kevin Harwell, immediate past president, once again stepped forward to communicate with the PTO on behalf of the Association. Responding to a call for input on how the PTO can maximize the potential of its information disseminate program, PTDLA addressed eight key issues of concern [see letter on pp. 4-5]. The Association continues to speak for the public's need to have free access to patent and trademark information, especially information systems developed prior to November 1990 with taxpayer money. I am proud, as I'm sure you are, to be part of an organization that has not forgotten the small inventor, the backbone of America's industrial and technological greatness.

In January, the Association petitioned the American Library Association (ALA) for affiliate status at ALA's Midwinter meeting in San Antonio. Affiliating with ALA will allow PTDLA to more formally develop mutually beneficial relationships with ALA groups such as the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT), the Reference and Adult Services Division (RASD), and the Law & Political Science and Science & Technology sections of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). This will be advantageous both in terms of more widely disseminating patent and trademark information and helping to knowledgeably shape and influence policy and legislation pertaining to intellectual property issues. Status as an ALA affiliate will provide additional opportunities for PTDLA members to meet during the year as well as giving potential PTDLs a forum for meeting librarians from established PTDLs. Following a review of the PTDLA Bylaws by the ALA Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the ALA Council will make a final decision on our application. Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive Director, anticipates that this vote will take place at the ALA Annual Conference in New York.

As the Association moves toward its 15th official year (1998), I think it is important to reexamine what we are about. Do our objectives, as stated in Article I, Section 2 of our Bylaws, still accurately represent what the PTDLA does or should do? Do our membership and officers have a clear and agreed upon idea of where the Association is going? In trying to answer these questions I have polled our past presidents who are still involved in the PTDL program as well as some of our members whose contributions and longevity within the PTDL program make their input



particularly valuable. I will be using their comments as a foundation for beginning a long range plan for the Association – not for the sake of giving us all still more to do – but in hopes that such a plan can put PTDLA into a more proactive mode, reflecting the PTDLs' more mature role as a true partner with the US Patent and Trademark Office. I look forward to discussing this with you during the PTDLA business meeting.

Another important issue for PTDLA to address is what we can do as an association to more fully facilitate communication among the PTDLs. PTDLA-L, the Association's listserv discussion group, has been a wonderful forum for those who have the Internet access to participate in it. Yet 28 of our PTDLs cannot or have not signed on to this list meaning that more than one-third of our members have very little contact with PTDLA or the other PTDLs except at conference. Among those PTDLs unable to participate are some of our most experienced PTDLA members. Unfortunately, most of those 28 PTDLs are also currently unable to take advantage of the growing amount of patent and trademark information on the Internet or to provide input to the PTO as it begins to make some of its resources available on the Net. Lack of Internet access will continue to be an impediment to a fully functioning PTDLA as well as the PTDLs' ability to meet the public's patent and trademark information needs.

Thanks to the efforts of Donna Hopkins at the New York, NY PTDL, PTDLA now has a web site. Donna has worked on this for the last couple of months with input from the PTDLA Executive Board. The web site, which is unlinked and homeless at this point, will debut at the PTDLA business meeting. This will give members a chance to comment before we find an appropriate home and make the links hot. Further development of the web site will be the responsibility of the Special Publications Committee. Volunteers are still needed on this important committee.

It is a pleasure to work with you in PTDLA. I am constantly impressed by the dedication, creativity, and resourcefulness of the PTDLA membership! I look forward to seeing you at conference.

–Jennifer Paustenbaugh, PTDLA President

**PTDLA Executive Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 17, 7:00 - 8:30**  
**President's Suite,\* Crystal City Marriott**

**PTDLA Opening Reception**  
**Sunday, March 17, 8:30 - ?**  
**President's Suite,\* Crystal City Marriott**

**\*Room number will be available at conference  
 check-in on Sunday afternoon**

### Message from the Program Office

We recognize and celebrate two significant PTDL Program milestones this year. The first takes us back to the year 1871 when Congress first authorized the distribution of printed patents to libraries (35 USC 13). This federal statute established the beginning of what is now known as the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, otherwise known as PTDL. A special cover of the *Official Gazette of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office* was designed to commemorate this 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Patents to the People," the motto chosen for recognition of this special event, and will appear on the March 19, 1996 *Official Gazette*. This is a significant and remarkable anniversary for both the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) and the citizens of the United States.



For the past 125 years, U.S. patents have been placed into the hands of the public via a network of prestigious public, academic and state libraries in order to further economic and technological growth all across the country. These libraries, designated as Patent and

Trademark Depository Libraries by the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks and staffed by skilled information professionals, facilitate access to what many consider the largest and most unique collection of technological and scientific information available in the world. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is proud of this banner year and what it signifies, and is dedicated to serving its partners, the PTDLs, in getting "Patents to the People." Congratulations go to each and every one of us associated with this effort, but especially to you wonderful PTDL professionals who carry out our mission with creativity, grace under pressure, and tireless enthusiasm.

The second milestone is the retirement of Carole Shores (Phillips), the first Director of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program. Carole began her career with the U.S. Patent And Trademark Office in 1963, and retired after a productive 32 years on January 3, 1996. Her achievements were many, and the PTO recognized her in a beautiful and comprehensive article in its newsletter, *PTO Pulse*, v.4, #1, January 1996. From my perspective, her most significant contribution to the PTO was the growth of the nationwide network of PTDLs under her nurturing and energetic management. She was recognized at her festive retirement party on January 17, 1996 for her work in PTDL Program expansion, bringing the network from 22 PTDLs in 1977 to 80 PTDLs in 1996. Those of you who know Carole well, know that she quite simply loved the PTDL Program. She drew her inspiration from the network itself and was refreshed each year at the annual conference by direct contact



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with librarians who made the magic happen at their own PTDLs. She certainly motivated and touched numerous people during her career. As one of those who consider her a mentor as well as a friend, I will remain forever grateful for the privilege of having worked for her for over 11 years. It will be our standard here in the PTDL Program to hold fast to the spirit of dedicated service to the PTDLs first established by Carole A. Shores.

Thanks to all of you for your work over the past year. We look forward to thanking you in person at PTDL Training Conference XIX!

*-Martha Crockett Sneed, Manager, Patent & Trademark Depository Library Program*

#### **Letter to the PTO Concerning the Information Dissemination Policy**

December 29, 1995

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Attention: Wesley H. Gewehr  
Administrator for Information Dissemination  
Crystal Park 3, Suite 451  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Mr. Gewehr:

Thank you for your request for input into how the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office can maximize the potential of its information dissemination program. The PTO and the PTDLs have come a long way together in the last seventeen years in utilizing technology to provide patent and trademark resources and services to the public. On behalf of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association, we acknowledge the advancements that we have enjoyed to date. We must also identify issues that should be addressed in order to move forward from this point.

1. Patent Bibliographic Data on WWW. We applaud the recent efforts by the PTO and CNIDR to make Patent Bibliographic Data available on the Internet via the World Wide Web. Once the initial problems with capacity for multiple users and availability of data for the complete twenty-years of patents are overcome, this will be a service that will complement those that can be used at PTDLs. It will support our mutual interest in minimizing barriers to patent and trademark information.
2. Expanded use of the Internet. The Internet holds a lot of promise, both for providing access to patent and trademark information and for developing search systems. Practical advantages of maintaining a single point of electronic storage and retrieval for some sets of information should be explored, but only if continuous availability of the information to the PTDLs can be guaranteed into the future. Some PTDLs do not

currently have access to the Internet. This problem should also be addressed in order to realize the advantages of centralized information.

3. USAPat problems. In recent electronic correspondence I have had with many PTDLs I have discovered that very few of them are routinely using USAPat disks to assist patrons who needed patent information. A few additional PTDLs are only using the disks occasionally, when a patron absolutely needed information that was only available at the moment on USAPat. Some of these PTDLs only allow USAPat to be used by library staff in order to make copies for patrons. By far, the majority of the 32 PTDLs that have corresponded with me do not currently offer USAPat information to patrons although PTDLs have been receiving the disks for almost two years. The most common complaints among PTDLs that do not provide USAPat information to their patrons was lack adequate equipment, including coin boxes or copycard devices, and problems storing the disks. We anxiously await computer equipment the PTO has promised to provide us. Complaints from the PTDLs that were using USAPat were especially noteworthy. Several stated that the documents were not at all easy to read, even using equipment and settings recommended by the PTO. Patrons are forced to get printed patents, usually at their own expense, just to read the text. For this single reason, microfilm patents have a decisive advantage over USAPat in the PTDLs. Printing speed continues to be a problem, also. The anticipation of the Technical Contents publications only aggravates our frustration with USAPat. If on-screen legibility and printing speed are improved, USAPat will enjoy a greater acceptance in the PTDLs.
4. CD-ROM limitations. We question the archival suitability of CD-ROM as a medium of distribution for standing collections of patent and trademark data. As data handling speeds of computer hardware and software, and data compression/decompression capabilities advance, this format will eventually become obsolete. When this happens, it will once again be up to the PTDLs to fund retrospective replacement of their collections. Several of us have done this once before, replacing paper copy patents with microfilm. We also question the suitability of CD-ROM for electronic indexes that require many disks to accomplish searching. We understand that the status of the Front Page database is now uncertain; however, for future considerations, would not an index of this size be better managed in a medium with a higher capacity than CD-ROM? The Internet may be a logical candidate for such a large index.
5. Private sector providers. We acknowledge the PTO's interest in balancing economy, efficiency and effectiveness and the need to work with private sector providers to find this balance. However, the dependence on the private sector has led to significant limitations in distribution of patent and trademark information. One



example is the prohibitively high costs of licensing CD Answer software for use on a local area network within our libraries. Another is the connect hour search software royalties the PTO is obligated to recover from PTDLs for using APS. A strong stance by the PTO is called for in negotiating for less restrictive agreements in support of our mutual interest in minimizing barriers to patent and trademark information.

6. APS. While we welcome the availability of APS in the PTDLs, there are some problems inherent in the service as provided. The subscription fees, however low, remain undesirable and keep APS out of too many PTDLs. Additionally, the system search language is far too cumbersome for occasional users. This puts library staff in a serious dilemma. If we insist that the patron does his or her own searching (patron at the keyboard), either we must spend a great deal of time training the patron, or the patron must be willing to pay for results of less than competent searching. Neither choice is satisfactory to occasional users. If instead we do searching for the patron (library staff at the keyboard), we risk problems with the unauthorized practice of law, as we were clearly warned at the conference last March. Among resources currently available to the PTDLs, APS has a place for frequent searchers and those who can acclimate to the command language. However, many patrons who could benefit from basic full-text searching are unable to get the service they need from APS.
7. Full-text searchable database. We have heard statements from the PTO that full-text searching should not be available for free and that fees are an appropriate screen to separate users who are committed enough to need full-text from users who are not. We do not agree. The nature of inventive thinking involves combinations of elements that others have not thought of. Inventors, scientists, students, business persons, educators, historians, and other researchers have a need to understand the current state of the art in ways that patent classifiers have not provided for. They need to investigate combinations of elements that cannot be accounted for in concisely written titles and abstracts. Taxpayers made an enormous investment in the development of the PTO's base collection of full-text data prior to November 1990. The complete data, regardless of date of issue, is held by the PTO as a public trust whether it is on paper or in electronic format. Let the private sector charge for value-added features, but let the public have a means to search the PTO's base collection of full-text patent data without charge. I am sure that you are aware of estimates made by Carl Malamud, President of the Internet Multicasting Service. In an August 4, 1995, letter to Commissioner Lehman, Malamud reasoned that the cost of providing the PTO's entire patent database on the Internet for a year,

including equipment, staff and Internet access, would be \$175,000. If his estimates are reasonable, a full-text patent database made available via the Internet would require modest staff and financial support from the PTO, considering the value of such a service. The PTDLs would be ideal locations for providing Internet gateways to the database. We would like the PTO to provide an estimate of costs for a service similar to one that was provided by the Internet Multicasting Service, that would include all years available in electronic text.

8. Long-range planning. The PTO should involve the PTDLs in the development of new products and services from the earliest planning stages through implementation. In recent years, for example, the idea of electronic filing of patent applications has been mentioned several times, with the assumption that PTDLs will play a part in facilitating electronic filing for the public. This kind of service is a departure from readily understood depository activity. Participation among the PTDLs in providing electronic filing will depend heavily on a good fit among at least three elements: (1) the missions of each PTDL and their parent institutions, (2) the expectations of the PTO, and (3) the resource requirements of providing the service, including facilities, equipment, supplies and library staff expertise. We must also give appropriate attention to the exposure of PTDLs to legal liabilities.

As you revisit the PTO's information dissemination policy, your continued consideration of the issues that are important to the PTDLs is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Harwell  
Past President of the Patent and Trademark Depository  
Library Association

### **PTDLA Officers 1995 - 1996**

**President:** Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Stillwater, OK

**Vice President/President-Elect:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Donna Hanson, Moscow, ID

**Treasurer:** David Morrison, Salt Lake City, UT

**Past President:** Kevin Harwell, University Park, PA

#### **Regional Representatives**

Region 1: Ann Poulos, Providence, RI

Region 2: Sharon L. Edwards, Buffalo, NY

Region 3: Betsy Lowther, Philadelphia, PA

Region 4: Charles Brown, Louisville, KY

Region 5: Chris Marhenke, Miami, FL

Region 6: Brian Carpenter, College Station, TX

Region 7: Lisa Hoenig, Toledo, OH

Region 8: Sarah Calcese, Madison, WI



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Region 9: Debbie Hall, Little Rock, AR  
Region 10: Jean Bishop, Butte, MT  
Region 11: Alan Gould, Lincoln, NE  
Region 12: Donna Cooper, Los Angeles, CA

## Minutes of PTDLA Council Meeting

### Sunday, 19 March 1995, Crystal City Marriott

Meeting called to order at 8:14 PM by President Kevin Harwell.

Minutes of the 1994 Council meeting approved as printed and distributed in the *PTDLA Newsletter*.

The Election Committee (Brian Carpenter, Terry Lee, Chris Marhenke, and Jean Rozette) presented the slate of candidates. They are:

Vice-President/President-elect: Jean Rozette and Marie Moisten

Secretary: Donna Hanson and Brian Carpenter

Regional Representatives:

Region 1: Ann Poulos, Providence, RI

Region 3: Betsy Lowther, Philadelphia, PA and Dave Murdock, Pittsburgh, PA

Region 5: Chris Marhenke, Ft. Lauderdale, FL;

Region 7: Loren Curtis, Cincinnati, OH and Lisa Hoenig, Toledo, OH

Region 9: Carol Giles, St. Louis, MO and Debbie Hall, Little Rock, AR

Region 11: Alan Gould, Lincoln, NE and Dena Thomas, Albuquerque, NM.

Dave Morrison continues as Treasurer for another term. Representatives from even-numbered regions continue in office for another year.

Kevin Harwell reviewed the proposed agenda for the Tuesday business meeting. Council discussed the desirability of a meeting with Wes Gewehr regarding APS fees, deposit accounts, and the archival stability of film and CD-ROMs.

Everyone will be reminded to pay their PTDLA dues.

Jean Bishop should be added to all regional email lists and any other regional communications so that she can add them to the archives. She will also be added to the Council email list. This will require many computer disks; Jean was authorized to purchase computer diskettes as needed. NOTE: The Archives are still missing some early files, including those during the term of John Phillips. If you have, or know where files may be, please forward them to Jean.

Council discussed the advisability of designing and producing new PTDLA pins and mouse pads.

Kevin will present a gift from PTDLA to Bill Lawson during the Commissioners Reception.

Jennifer Paustenbaugh will be appointing new committee members for 1995/96. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact Jennifer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

-Donna Hanson, Secretary

## PTDLA Business Meeting

### 21 March 1995, Crystal City Marriott



Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM by President Kevin Harwell.

Agenda approved as distributed.

Minutes of 1994 meeting approved as printed and distributed in the *PTDLA Newsletter*.

### Committee Reports:

Bylaws Committee (Donna Hanson): No activity to report.

Social Committee: No activity to report.

Publications Committee (Jennifer Paustenbaugh): Chris Byrne of the University of Washington will be the new editor of the NEWSLETTER.

Vice-president/President-elect (Jennifer Paustenbaugh): Committee sign-up sheets are in the Hospitality Suite. Please volunteer for committees. Diane Richmond called for a round of applause as a thank you to Jennifer for a job well done as editor.

Treasurer's Report (Dave Morrison): 65 members and 2 associate members are registered to date. Of these 60 have paid the registration fee. Last year there were 87 total members registered at the end of the conference, 77 of whom had paid their registration fees.

Government Relations Committee (Brian Carpenter): No activity to report.

Archives (Jean Bishop): Noted a decline in paper copies forwarded to the archives this year. Reminder to everyone to save and send material to Jean instead of throwing it away. Please add Jean to regional email lists so that messages will go to her automatically.

Elections Committee (Brian Carpenter): There seems to be major indifference on part of members to serve as candidates. In spite of this, there is a qualified slate of candidates. They are:

Vice-President/President-elect: Jean Rozette (New Haven, CT) and Marie Moisten (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)



Secretary: Donna Hanson (Moscow, ID) and Brian Carpenter (College Station, TX)

Regional Representatives: Representatives of odd-numbered regions up for election this year, representatives for even-numbered regions continue in office for another year. The candidates are:

Region 1: Ann Poulos (Providence, RI)

Region 3: Betsy Lowther (Philadelphia, PA) and Dave Murdock (Pittsburgh, PA)

Region 5: Chris Marhenke (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)

Region 7: Loren Curtis (Cincinnati, OH) and Lisa Hoenig (Toledo, OH)

Region 9: Carol Giles (St. Louis, MO) and Debbie Hall (Little Rock, AR)

Region 11: Alan Gould (Lincoln, NE) and Dena Thomas (Albuquerque, NM)

There were no nominations from the floor. Everyone was reminded that officers must be dues-paying members of PTDLA.

Kevin announced the creation of the PTDLA-L mailserv list. There are currently 43 subscribers and two awaiting confirmation. There was discussion of the benefits of open and closed membership on the list. It was moved and seconded that the PTDLA-L be accepted as the official list of the Association. The motion was amended to restrict membership to PTDL staff and the staff of the PTDL Program Office. The motion was confirmed as amended.

It was moved and seconded to suspend the rules so that the ballots could be mailed after conference. They will be mailed by 31 March and returned by 30 April. Passed with no objections.

The attendees were divided into nine small groups for discussion. The groups were selected to create a mix of types and sizes of libraries and older and newer members. After discussion period the groups reassembled to share concerns as expressed in the groups. The concerns were recorded and compiled into a cohesive list. The major concerns, as identified by repetition among groups, were gathered into a statement of concerns that were shared with the PTO. Anyone desiring copies of the compiled concerns should contact Donna Hanson for a copy (see comments below).

Members of the groups were:

Group 1: Nancy Haigh, Debby Hall, Mary Leckie, Tom Anderson, Jane Running, Shannon Stipes, Jean Rozett, Marjory Cunningham, Mary Clare Sprott.

Group 2: Rob Williams, Johanna Johnson, Tom Smisek, Danny Dorroh, Loren Curtis, Thomas Henderson, Marie Moisten, Donna Hopkins, Carol Giles.

Group 3: Sharon Edward, Helen Haskell, Ruth Seid, Betsy Lowther, Danny Walker, Curt Idrogo, Robin Gray, Ann Poulos, Phyllis Karrh.

Group 4: Diane Richmond, Barbara Darrow, Charles Brown, Dave Murdock, Karen Luttrell, Lesley Boughton, Lillian Stefano, John Heim, Lisa Hoenig.

Group 5: Dena Thomas, Jean Bishop, Gad Engler, Lisa Pillow, Selma Etter, Mary Frances Panettiere, Kenneth Johnson, Louveller Luster.

Group 6: Terry Lee, Alan Gould, Ray Dickinson, Geraldine Hurt, Michael White, Sarah Calcese, Natalie Rutledge, Chris Byrne.

Group 7: Claudine Jenda, Donna Hanson, Janice Comfort, Ellen Krupar, Joanne Guyton, Carmen Santos, Patricia Kenly, Ted Pfarrer, Charlotte Erdman.

Group 8: Susan Ardis, Paul Murphy, John White, Jean McCrowell, Matt Gullett, Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Connie Wu, Neil Woodward.

Group 9: Jean Porter, Dave Morrison, Brian Carpenter, Elka Tenner, Thomas Melvin, Joe Zhou, Colleen Coble, Steven Yoon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

*-Donna Hanson, Secretary*

## DISCUSSION TOPICS FROM SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

### General Concerns Regarding Conference

Prefer that conference be scheduled either late April or up to the third week of May. Too many weather uncertainties in March.

Meeting should be held earlier in the day—preferably in the morning or afternoon. Many people who would have been here during the day, left in the evening. Maybe 3:30 - 6:00 or 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

Would like to see the PTDLA present real programs as has been done in the past. Why don't we have a PTDLA Day as we had in the past?

Entire day in dark room was not good for CD-ROM training. This was not CD-ROM training—this was more show and tell. Real training needs to be done.

### Comments Related to CASSIS

Some of the group were "caught off guard" by new CASSIS software—did not realize what kind of changes it would cause. New software caused problems with training staff, not enough memory

Alternatives to CD-ROM were discussed. For those with NOTIS, CARL or similar databases, it was suggested that tapes from PTO should be bought and mounted for multiple access. Libraries could use a particular front-end system that could be turned into HDM-like screen. It was also suggested



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that PTO could go to solely Internet or online databases. Funding from production of multiple CDs for patent text might be diverted to assisting those few library that do not yet have Internet access.

Technical support from PTO is good but could be better. Documentation has improved but could still be better, e.g. instead of just telling us to "Use PTDL Default" there could have been an indication of what these defaults are and why they were selected. Also, information should have been included for changing the defaults at the local level. We should have been warned that the new software will run slower on the present equipment because it looks for something in the A drive when operating. PTO is trying through PTDL, and the Pentium machine will run CASSIS faster than 286, but we would like to see specifications for new machines given to the libraries so that libraries with need and desire for multiple work stations can prepare for purchase. Is it possible for PTO to act as a broker for the libraries that need multiple workstations so that they could get the benefit of large purchase.

We know money from the canceled CASSIS online database allowed purchasing of original CASSIS work station equipment and the Pioneer drives. Is it possible that canceling other online services, like FTS2000MAIL, APS can provide this kind of money again?

At some academic libraries, professors and students are not doing patent searches as much as they are doing analysis of the patent database. They are looking at how many patents were granted fifteen years ago, the latest patents in a particular technology, measuring patent activity in the technology dealing with semiconductors, and historical and economic research concerning patents. Jane Meyers' office does this, as does APS, could we get the CASSIS discs to support more of this kind of searching? Will the new software enable our researchers to do this?

### **Relationship with the PTO**



The new documentation of CASSIS Dataware 3.21 was much better than previous documentation. All attending said they would like to have more documentation and a better, less labor intensive install program—similar to what commercial products like NEWSBANK and Congressional Information Services provides. This would be a software update and installation that is installed from a batch file. Eliminate the manual installation of the software every time a new disc is sent out.

PTDLP - could they do more analysis of the kinds of questions they are getting—to help them find out what kind of questions they are getting the most often.

We are concerned that the PTO is improving your performance at the expense of the PTDLs. Many of the improvements in your operations tends to shift the work and cost to the depository libraries. We have concerns that PTO

is not sure of their relationship with us – sometimes we are told that we are an extension of the PTO and other times we hear that we are your customers. If we are extensions, then are concerns about the financial and labor impacts of your decisions should be taken more seriously. If we are your customers than you need to more concerned about how your products fill our needs.

There is much concern about how we are going to cope with thousands of CD-ROMs: how do we store? how do we provide effective access to the contents? With microfilm which is in sequential order, the patron can easily select the needed items and with minimal instruction load the reels on the machine and read or print. Retrieving patents from USA PAT is labor intensive.

If we are to receive the patents only in CD-ROM format we will need more than one workstation to provide access to the system and the patents. Under the current mode of operation one person can be using CASSIS while another is reading or printing from the microfilm. If both operations are to happen on the same equipment, it will mean that delays and bottlenecks will occur. A second computer with laser printer will alleviate some of these problems.

### **PTDLA as an Association - Concerns**

What is the reason for the regions divisions in PTDLA? Regions are a geographical reference, but do they really make sense? Shouldn't we be organized according to library or by type of patrons we provide service for—e.g. College Station PTDL serves as a community library and an academic library and Tempe PTDL serves as an academic library and support center for Motorola as well as being a community library. Other groups see the need for geographic cohesion.

There are more PTDLs this year, but the PTDLA is getting smaller. What's wrong? Last year we were in solidarity in our opposition to fees for access to APS. This year we are split, why? How can we re-unify as a group? We need improved modes of communications.

Daily communication on CASSIS online is missed. Need a replacement not FTS—it has not served as a replacement. By a show of hands only 3 libraries used FTSMail at least once a month. 7 libraries have tried to use it, but have never been able to get access.

We should support PTDLA-L as our supplement to FTSMail and officially adopt it as the PTDLA communication organ. This can be done until PTDL can phase out FTSMail and find way to help all libraries have access to the Internet. Kevin's response PTDLA-L is a private discussion list Donna Hanson is maintaining the Internet list. List was open to everyone related to the PTDLs and PTO. Action at business meeting amended this to restrict subscription to PTDL staff members and members of the PTDL Program Office.

Martha's response to questions about FTSMail: FTS2000 will be phased out. This will be a priority to phase



out and replace with Internet access. It is now time for PTDLP to look at Internet access and this will be done as soon as a SYSOP for Internet is brought on board.

### Major Points for Discussion with PTO

Our thanks to the PTO for the interest shown in our problems and challenges, for your support when we have problems, and for your willingness to listen to our concerns. The PTDLP Office and Jane Meyers' staff are always responsive to our interests, needs and problems.

Training is vital for this program because of the specialized resources and services. The conference is a really good way to provide training to core staff. However, many library staff cannot come to conference. We suggest:

- Teleconferences, on a quarterly basis.
- Regional training events.
- Videos, like the GATT video, are very welcome. We would appreciate a "How to do a patent search" prepared by PTO.

Communication can be facilitated by forwarding summary of hot topics from PTDLA-L to PTDLP and Wes. The video conference facility was created to allow examiner interviews between local sites and PTO, maybe these could be open to all PTDLs not just the partnership sites.

The upcoming flood of CD-ROMs is a major concern. Storage will be a challenge. Access to and printing of documents is a concern.

Equipment replacement : The upcoming acquisition for the PTDLs is great news. Thanks. A lease plan may permit scheduled upgrades as this equipment becomes worn or outdated.

We suggest that the PTO explore ways of using the Internet to distribute information and to communicate with the PTDLs. For those few libraries that do not yet have a connection, perhaps the PTO can find a way to help.

We will follow the development of the PTO corporation rather closely. The interests of the whole patent and trademark community are best served by:

- Continued dissemination of patent and trademark information via the PTDLs.
- Including someone with a direct PTDLA connection on the advisory board that is created for a PTO corporation.

Specialized, individualized programs can be a benefit to everyone: The Sunnyvale PTDL:

- Is a unique operation.
- It is more of a single-focus enterprise.

The majority of the PTDLs:

- offer patent and trademark services as one of many services.
- More frequently work with individual or independent inventors.

APS Fees Place a major burden on all of the PTDLs. Are an obstacle for those libraries that are restricted by state laws from collecting fees from users. Deposit accounts that can be replenished as they are depleted would work best. Less expensive subscriptions, with lower thresholds would encourage greater participation.

APS training accounts will be welcomed; roll-over of balances should not be a problem.

*-Donna Hanson, Secretary*

### Treasurer's Report

#### PTDLA TREASURER'S PRE-CONFERENCE REPORT

As of May 24, 1995, our continuation as a 501(c)(3), or publicly supported organization, has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service. We will not need to re-apply in the future.



Ninety-four people paid PTDLA membership fees for the 1995/1996 membership year: ninety-one PTDL representatives and three associate members. Eighty-two people paid conference fees for the 1995 (18th) Patent and Trademark Depository Library Conference, down slightly from the 1994 conference.

Balance as of January 18, 1995	\$1602.39
Deposits	
3/29/95 Memberships and Conference fees	2330.00
6/21/95 Additional memberships and conference fees	220.00
8/15/95 Two new memberships	20.00
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>(+)2570.00</b>
Debits	
3/23/95 Officers' Lunch w/ Wes Gewehr	49.32
3/24/95 Contribution to Conference Costs	1480.00
3/24/95 Cont. to Commissioner's Reception	100.00
3/24/95 Newsletter, Lawson gift, stamps	614.93
3/24/95 PTDLA Hospitality Suite	213.70
4/26/95 Supplies for Archival Comm.	40.00
5/12/95 Newsletter mailing fees	74.10
<b>TOTAL DEBITS</b>	<b>(-) 2572.05</b>
Balance as of February 17, 1996	\$1600.34
<i>-Dave Morrison, Treasurer, Salt Lake City PTDL</i>	



## Archives Report

The Archives Committee has collected and filed materials through 1995. The files are currently being stored at Montana Tech Library in Butte, MT, in the same facility as the Chair.

Highlights of items filed:

- Kevin Harwell has sent two disks to the PTDLA archives with proceedings from the Association's Listserv for the period August 1994-March 1995.

- Jennifer Paustenbaugh sent several papers for filing from the files of John Phillips, past president.

- Jean Porter found eight issues of the *PDLA Region IV Newsletter* from August 1986 to Spring 1988, Vol. 1 (1-4) and Vol. 2 (1-4).

*-Jean Bishop, Butte, MT (Chair); Alan Gould, Lincoln, NE; Jean Porter, Raleigh, NC*

## A Brief History of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association

Prepared by Jennifer Paustenbaugh with assistance from PTDLA Archives Committee Chair Jean Bishop (Montana Tech, Butte, MT) and John Phillips (Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK) as a required part of PTDLA's request for ALA affiliate status..

The first formal dialogue between librarians at Patent Depository Libraries (PDLs) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) took place at a PTO-hosted conference in 1977. The conference was so useful to those attending that plans were made to make this an annual event for training and sharing ideas and concerns among member libraries. One of the first collaborative efforts among the PDL librarians was a 1979 document called "Funding of Depository Libraries," a report of operating costs, user surveys, and recommendations from 22 of the PDLs. This was followed up by a 1981 report "Support of Patent Depository Libraries" in which it was recommended that a Patent Depository Library Council, modeled after the Depository Library Council, be developed. In June 1982, a proposed organizational structure was drafted with a chairperson, chairperson-elect, secretary, and one councilor from each of seven geographical regions. The council was to be responsible for "drawing up bylaws, and rules of order; for determining qualifications to hold office; for defining membership; and for other business."



In August 1983 ballots were mailed to each PDL with a slate of candidates who were to assume their duties at Conference VI the following month. Charles Wilt of the

Franklin Institute was elected chairperson; Barbara Kile of Rice University was elected chairperson-elect. In May 1984, the Council presented to the PDL librarians a 44-page document called "By-Laws and Reports on Topics of Concern, 1983-84." As stated in the bylaws, "The objectives of the Council are to discover the interests, needs, opinions, and goals for Patent Depository Libraries, and to advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office in these matters for the benefit of patent depository libraries and their users, and to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in planning and implementing appropriate services."

The major accomplishments of the Patent Depository Library Association (PDLA) organization between 1983 and 1987 were lobbying to obtain additional staff members for the PTO's Patent Depository Library Program, collaborating with the PTO on a plan to furnish full-text U.S. patents to the PDLs, petitioning for and receiving a toll-free number at the PTO to improve communication between the PTO and the PDLs, establishing guidelines for patent collection uniformity, and proposing guidelines for the designation of new PDLs.



The history of the association since 1987 is closely tied to new developments in information technology and working with the PTO to ensure that such technology is rapidly and appropriately deployed at PDLs nationwide.

With strong encouragement from the Association, the PTO began a pilot program in 1988 moving its cumbersome online CASSIS (US patent searching) database to a CD-ROM format. During this time period the PDL program was elevated to the office level as the Office of Patent Depository Library programs, demonstrating its importance to the PTO. The first official publication of the PDLA, the *PDLA Newsletter*, was published in March 1988 under PDLA Chairman Billie M. Connor of the Los Angeles Public Library.

During 1989-90, the Association welcomed the move of CASSIS CD-ROM from its pilot phase to a regular production phase, applied for and received Tax Exempt Status, opened a PDLA checking account, and established membership dues to provide funds. Jointly sponsored events such as the Commissioner's reception during the annual PDL training conference helped to bring recognition to the Association within the PTO.

Although CASSIS CD-ROM allowed users to conduct their own searches, it lacked the currency and full-text search capability needed by many users. Discussion of deploying the Automated Patent System (APS), the PTO's powerful, in-house, full-text search system, began. As discussions continued, the Association became increasingly concerned about the possible institution of user fees to access patent information available only in electronic format. The



Association strongly supported the provisions outlined in Public Law 99-607 which state: "the Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks may not impose a fee for use of public patent or trademark search rooms and libraries. The costs of such rooms and libraries shall come from amounts appropriated by Congress." The Association continued to express its concern publicly, and when 14 PDLs became pilot sites for APS access in 1991, the fees levied on APS users in the PTO's Public Search Room in Crystal City, VA, were waived at the PDLs.

In 1991, the scope of the PDLs was broadened to include trademarks and these libraries became Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs). The Association changed its name in 1991 to reflect this additional responsibility becoming the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA). In June 1992, Kevin Harwell of Pennsylvania State University, chair of the PTDLA Government Relations Committee, testified at a PTO Open Hearing on behalf of the PTDLA with regard to the burden which APS access fees would place on the public and on PTDLs. Many PTDLs also sent letters to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks supporting the PTDLA position on this issue. In August 1992 the PTO established the fee for access to APS but suspended the collection of fees in PTDLs until January 1993 while alternative fee structures for PTDLs were considered.

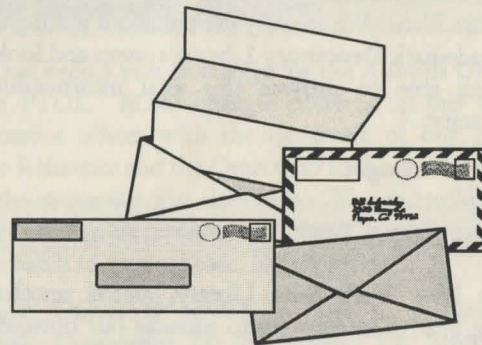
In 1993, with the growth of the PTDL program and consequently PTDLA membership, a temporary Region committee was established to look at redrawing the PTDLA geographic regions and in 1994, the Association was restructured into 12 regions with a recommendation to not allow any region to become larger than 15 PTDL locations. In 1993, the PTDLA Bylaws were revised giving the officers the titles of president and vice-president/president-elect, and the position of secretary/treasurer was split into two offices. Also during 1993, PTDLA Vice-President/President-elect Kevin Harwell conducted a "PTDL Outreach Activities Survey." From the 66 (of 74) libraries responding, it was learned that PTDLs were hosting an average of 11 outreach events per year with over 22,000 people attending the 473 reported activities.

Most recently, President Kevin Harwell established a closed, electronic discussion group, PTDLA-L, for the staff of all PTDLs to facilitate communication and information sharing among the PTDLs. In December 1995, the Association provided written comment to the PTO in response for input into how the PTO can maximize the potential of its information dissemination program. Chief among PTDLA's suggestions were expanded use of the Internet for making patent bibliographic data freely available to the public and the development of a free, full-text, searchable patent database.

## PDLA/PTDLA Chairs/Presidents

- 1983-85 Charles Wilt, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA
- 1985-86 Barbara Kile, Rice University, Houston, TX
- 1986-87 John Phillips, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- 1987-88 Billie Connor, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, CA
- 1988-89 Jeanne Oliver, Illinois State Library, Springfield, IL
- 1989-90 Theodore Cebula, Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee, WI
- 1990-91 Rosemary Dahman, Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Cincinnati, OH
- 1991-92 Thomas Andersen, California State Library, Sacramento, CA
- 1992-93 M. Neil Massong, Detroit Public Library/PTDLF Fellow, Detroit, MI
- 1993-94 Diane Richmond, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL
- 1994-95 Kevin Harwell, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- 1995-96 Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

## News from the PTDLs



### Akron, Ohio

The Akron-Summit County Public Library was designated a Patent & Trademark Depository Library on September 18, 1995.

Akron, formerly called the "Rubber Capital of the World," is located in northeastern Ohio about forty miles south of Cleveland. The 1990 census lists the Akron and Summit County Population at 514,900. Although rubber manufacturing has left the area, Akron remains a strong and growing manufacturing center. Fifty-four Fortune 500 companies have facilities in greater Akron, and in 1994, the area was ranked ninth in the U.S. for locating new manufacturing by *Site Selection*.

Akron's crown jewel is Inventure Place, home of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, which opened in July 1995



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as a tribute to American inventive genius and as a creative resource center.

The Akron-Summit County Public Library, founded in 1874, consists of a Main Library, 17 branches, and a mobile services department. The 1995 operating budget was \$15.3 million. ASCPL holds 1.2 million items and has an annual circulation of 3.4 million. In 1994, staff answered 674,000 reference questions. Currently, the library is migrating to Dynix™. A selective depository for U.S. government documents since 1952, the library is also a depository for Ohio state documents. Other special collections include Lighter-Than-Air, Genealogy and Local History, Trucking History, and Government Contact Information. ASCPL is sponsor and home to the Akron Regional Free-Net, an emerging electronic community resource.

The Patent & Trademark Center will be located in a newly created and furnished area of Main Library's Science and Technology Division. The library currently subscribes to TRADEMARKSCAN® on CD-ROM. A twenty year backfile of patents on CD-ROM is being purchased from Derwent and will be mounted on a server. Three workstations with laser printers will be available for patrons to use. Two librarians were added to the Science and Technology staff to assure adequate professional service. Patent and trademark resources will also be shared with Inventure Place. We are very excited about joining the Patent and Trademark Depository Library system and look forward to being able to provide this vital information to our community.

*-Joyce McKnight*

## Albany, New York

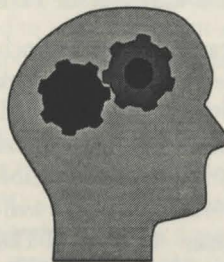
The New York State Library, amidst another budget slashing year, is attempting to increase our outreach to, and support from, the business community. Towards that end, we keep a folder at our reference desk of "Patent Success Stories". A small sign posted near the CASSIS terminals asks those individuals who have successfully used our patent services to share their story with us. Although there has not been an overwhelming response, (I'm sure for a variety of reasons), when it came time to compose an insert for our local paper's business section, a couple of local inventors contacted from this list were glad to be interviewed, and presented a complimentary picture of our services. We were also able to identify local companies and research facilities that have photoduplication deposit accounts with us, mainly for the purpose of obtaining patent copies. These folks were also willing promoters of the library!

As it appears many libraries are also doing, we are including mention of our Patent and Trademark services on the State Library Home page (still under development). And a colleague is maintaining a reference to Internet sources for patent information.

*-Mary Woodward*

## Anchorage, Alaska

Robert Williams, PTDL Representative for the Anchorage PTDL, has continued to work with the Alaska Inventors and Entrepreneurs Association (A.I.E.A.) and inventors from around Alaska. He was a speaker at the A.I.E.A. annual membership meeting and has written articles for *IDX*, the association's newsletter.



The A.I.E.A. has raised nearly \$1,000 of the estimated \$4,000 needed for a new computer, laser printer and 6-pack CD-ROM changer to replace the library's *slow* Televideo computer.

Requests for assistance with trademark searches is growing as there is no trademark search capability in any other Alaska library.

Robert was a presenter and a conference planner for the National Innovation Workshop, Pacific Region which was sponsored by the Alaska Science & Technology Foundation and the University of Alaska, Anchorage's Small Business Development Center. The personal contacts made at the conference have brought additional requests for information and search assistance from many inventors, business people and engineers around the state.

There have been four guided tours for junior and senior high school students and faculty during the past year and work is proceeding with an inventor's group which wants to sponsor a young inventors contest in the Anchorage area.

Search guides and multimedia patent and trademark training modules for the reference staff and the general public are being developed using Microsoft PowerPoint® presentation software.

The Alaska Library Association and the Pacific Northwest Library Association have asked Robert to present a patent research program at the joint annual meeting in Fairbanks Alaska, August 14-17, 1996.

Also, we are looking forward to hosting patent and trademark training sessions by the PTDL staff (budget permitting) sometime during May 1996!

*-Robert C. Williams*





## Atlanta, Georgia

Providing service at a patent and trademark depository continues to be an adventure. As a sign of their gratitude, searchers sometimes offer gifts. For example, packages of Oreo® and Chips Ahoy!® cookies were received by staff members this year. These items were quite overshadowed, however, by the offer of a dried, herb-like substance which the offerer said would "clear the mind and make it work like a computer." (No comment on whether the offer was accepted, and note: it was a trademark, not a plant patent search.)

While most inventors want to regale us with extensive, detailed descriptions of their inventions, others present unique public service moments of truth. A dubious duo threatened to have their "cousin Guido" come to break a staff member's legs if their idea was stolen. A trademark searcher wanted a staff member to enter into a nondisclosure arrangement with an agreement to pay \$1,000,000 if the idea got out. ("Sure, where do I sign?!") This particular trademark searcher was one of many trying to cash in on the Olympics coming to Atlanta this Summer. All sorts of combinations of "Atlanta," "1996," "Olympics," and the Olympic rings were tried. (Of course, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and the United States Olympic Committee already own many of them.)

We had a searcher trying to find a patent on immortality this year. Yet another, searching a combination pen-knife-clock, described one of his conspiracy theories to a staff member. He claims that banks have conspired to control our money—and thereby, the entire population. According to the patron, he related his insight to a sci-fi writer in South Georgia who was mysteriously found murdered shortly thereafter. (There was no mention of whether a killer pen-knife-chronometer was involved.) Security was notified.

We also had successful inventors return to tell us of the patents they received after using our facilities, and to pursue new inventions.

On a hardware related note, our CASSIS workstation is humming along (very loudly). Our systems analyst believes these noises to be the death throes of the hard drive. The printer on the same workstation has developed a variable pitch wail, apparently distraught over the impending doom to befall the entire system. Decrepit, yet hardworking, this system served more than 2500 CASSIS searchers in '95.

More seriously, we taught patents to: 4 sections of an Industrial Design class called Materials and Processes of Design; 1 section of a Mechanical Engineering class called Engineering Design; and 2 sections of a Literature, Culture and Communication class called Technical Writing.

A group of 25 advanced 6th graders studying the invention process performed patent searches on inventions of their

choosing. One student searched his wristwatch. Another searched the Super Soaker™ which was developed by an Atlanta based inventor. (Yes, we are very proud.)

Our staff continued their education as well: Claire Swanson attended a Dialog® patents seminar, while Tanya Barber attended a Trademarkscan® workshop.



**Atlanta 1996** ®

*-Mary-Frances Panettiere*

We look forward to an eventful fiftieth year as a Patent and Trademark Depository Library. With our interesting patrons AND the '96 Olympics (we are home to the Olympic Village), it should prove entertaining.

## Auburn University, Alabama

This has been a year of change for the Auburn University Libraries PTDL. Major changes occurred in our libraries' administrative offices with the departure of our Assistant Dean for Reference and the Dean who took up new positions within the university and elsewhere. We are reaching more users, have had an increase in demand for services, and lack of adequate funds to support basic library services.

Auburn University served as host to a Patent and Trademark Conference on November 3-4, 1995. The conference featured excellent speakers and was led by Ms. Martha Crockett Sneed, Manager of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Also accompanying Ms. Sneed, were Trademark Examiner, Mr. Paul Kruse and a Patent Classifier, Mr. Louis Falasco. Over 100 attendees participated in the conference. Competent speakers, along with John Moreland, publisher of *The Dream Merchant*, informed patent attorneys; small business administration officials; business and inventor groups; university faculty; and officials from the university offices for research. The conference addressed an array of topics from the conception of an idea to successfully putting the product on the market place. The conference was successfully received by all attendees.

Greater networking in the state among offices that offer assistance to inventors and small businesses is occurring since the conference. The networking involves incubator centers;



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small business development centers, patent and trademark depository libraries; inventor groups, etc. A state-wide networking group has since been formally established.

Cindy Mitchell and Mary Lou Dabbs, library faculty from the Auburn University Libraries PTDL, offered a successful patent and trademark searching seminar in Montgomery, AL organized by the Alabama Small Business Administration.

We are again making preparations to give another seminar to inventors and businesses at Jacksonville State University in June of this year. The seminar is being organized by Jacksonville State University's Small Business Development Center.

We are experiencing an increase in patent search requests from all of our groups in the region: inventors, businesses, students, and researchers. There has also been an increase in requests from remote users who are unable to visit the library, requiring patent and trademark information, especially trademark information!

Support for library services, including patent and trademark search services that Auburn University Libraries offers as a PTDL, is declining. Auburn University has been experiencing one of the most trying periods these past two years with declining financial support from the State Legislature. Governor Fob James has pledged strong support for elementary school (K-12) education in the state in preference to higher education. As a result, funds are being cut from higher education and moved to other programs. Auburn University, through Program Priority exercises, is cutting programs. The libraries are cutting serials annually, cutting the book budgets, and freezing vacant positions. Doing more with fewer resources is the working climate in which university employees operate.

Student enrollment is at an all-time high of over 22,000. Students, faculty and other users are pleased with the services they obtain from the Auburn University Libraries' PTDL. It is when they also need to consult other literature such as books, scientific or business journals that we fail to deliver.

On this note, Auburn University Libraries, its administration, library faculty and staff, and especially the Science and Technology faculty and staff, are very grateful for the steady and unfailing support that they obtain from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The expectations of our users, students, small businesses, inventors, and researchers are high. It is good to know that through CASSIS CD-ROM services and as a PTDL, we are assured of obtaining and making available patent and trademark search services to all our users. The provision of patent bibliographic data with abstracts over the INTERNET is a welcome service that will enhance access to patent information. This service is generating excitement among our users, especially when it works smoothly.

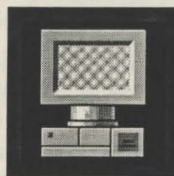
-Claudine Jenda

## Austin, Texas

Some of our more noteworthy achievements include our inclusion in "Expanding Your Horizon's." This all day workshop is aimed at encouraging young girls to consider careers in science, law and business. This event is attended by 1,000 girls from all over central Texas. What can I say about 1,000 9-12 year-olds—it's exciting. Our 2 workshops involve trademarks.

Our home page has been very successful (<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/ENG/engin.html>). We've heard positive comments from our users, especially those in San Antonio. Unfortunately, San Antonio is the only US city in the top ten (by population) without a PTDL.

Another exciting event was the arrival of 3 new 486 pentiums—gifts from the College of Engineering Foundation. The speed is impressive, and we now have one machine devoted only the trademarks and nothing else.



Wow, as the "live music capital" we get a lot of musicians coming in to do trademark searches. We are in the promo materials for the local chapter of ASCAP. And now we can "move-em" out with grace and speed. As an aside,

musicians are not the most patient people, so fast searches are a real benefit.

-Susan Ardis

## Big Rapids, Michigan

Our PTDL continues to provide service to most of the state of Michigan. Calls average about 3 a day about our services, and I am receiving inventors and trademarkers into the library almost every day. Since we are mostly one or more hours away from where these people live, it is amazing that so many come to see us.

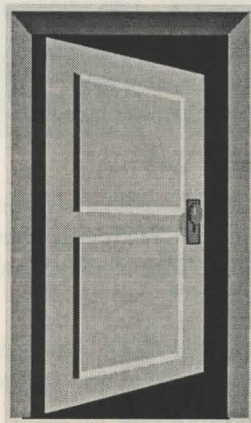
I taught two classes of technology students the use of the CASSIS system. One was for Industrial Chemistry, and the other was in the Product Design area. In the later area, the students in this class must come up with an invention, research it, and write a report (usually 60 to 70 pages long) on manufacturing and marketing it. This is really inventing-on-demand. The students all find ingenious ideas to pursue. After the class, I then spend individual time with each student to assist them in their research in the patent classification system.

The St. Joseph, Michigan newspaper, *The Herald-Palladium*, ran a story about the Ferris State University PTDL on December 17, 1995. It was on the front page of the Sunday Business supplement, and resulted in a number of calls and visits by would-be inventors to Ferris. The article was written by Mike Eliasohn.



For some reason I received a call from an inventor who was in South Carolina. I don't know why he chose to call me, as there are a number of PTDL's closer than northern Michigan, but I had a nice conversation with him, telling him what I could about the resources near him.

Many of the phone calls I receive request World Wide Web addresses for the inventors to search. Providing this information is important, as these people can do some of the research at or near their home. I usually tell them that these resources on the web are not complete in many ways, and there is no one to help you if you have questions. Many are very happy to hear that they can at least explore the web for information on patents and the patenting process.



The Timme Library is looking at building a new library building sometime in the next five years. The state legislature is looking at passing a \$50 million capital expenditure budget for the new Ferris library. It is hoped therefore, that I will be able to help design a state-of-the-art patent library which will carry us far into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will be needing to talk to other patent librarians who have recently had additions or

renovations to their libraries and find out what they did, what it cost, etc. It is an exciting time to be at the Ferris PTDL.

Former Ferris PTDL librarian Elaine Nienhouse underwent breast surgery this past year. She has also been receiving radiation and chemo-therapy since then. I saw her at our Christmas party, and she looked wonderful, and was in very good spirits. There seem to be no complications, and she continues to get better every day.

For those who need to know, the Ferris administration has named former acting dean, Dr. Ed Harris as our new permanent dean. The announcement was made Feb. 22, 1996. Dr. Harris was one of three finalists in the nationwide search. All of us in the Timme Library say a hearty congratulations to Dr. Ed and wish him the best during his tenure as dean.

I receive many phone calls from all over the state of Michigan from interested inventors, and many times the information they want can be found in one or more of the PTO references books/materials that are sent out. All of these materials are also items that can be chosen through the federal deposit program of the GPO. Michigan has 43 federal depository libraries scattered all over the state, so I devised a questionnaire that I sent to each federal depository library asking about the PTO materials that they receive. Thirty-one questionnaires were returned. I will bring the results of the

study to the conference in March and share them with anyone interested.

*-Ray Dickinson*

## **Birmingham, Alabama**

The highlight of the year for the Birmingham PTDL was our month-long celebration in October of our centennial as a Federal Depository Library. The month was capped by a reception in which Superintendent of Documents Wayne Kelly presented the library with a plaque commemorating the occasion.

Throughout the month we presented exhibits and programming illustrating the value of government documents, including patent and trademark materials. One of our exhibit cases displayed everyday household items accompanied by copies of their original patents and/or trademarks. In one of our most well-attended public programs, a local patent attorney presented a very informative seminar on intellectual property protection.

Also this year, the Birmingham PTDL welcomed two new full-time employees to the staff. Daniel Cusick and Cherrye Todd joined Rebecca Scarborough and Danny Dorroh in providing assistance to the many patrons who travel from all over northern Alabama for patent and trademark information.

*-Danny Dorroh*

## **Casper, Wyoming**

The Casper, Wyoming PTDL at the Natrona County Library is part of a "Small Business Resources in Wyoming" project that has developed a home page which is accessible at <http://www.uwyo.edu/lib/smbus.htm>

The home page has a link to the USPTO page and to other information resources for small business operators.

Natrona County is also a member of the WYLD (Wyoming Libraries Database) which is a statewide network of library holdings. WYLD runs over DRA software and provides gateways into a variety of other databases, including State of Wyoming files, and Internet access. You can telnet in to [wyld.state.wy.us](http://wyld.state.wy.us).

*-Lesley Boughton*

## **Chicago, Illinois**

We continue to be extremely busy with both patent and trademark searchers. We are still using the very helpful 13-minute video on patent searching made years ago by the Cincinnati Public Library (starring Rosemary Dahmann). Though slightly dated, it gives the best explanation we have



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seen on how the *Index and Manual of Classification* work. It continues to be a hit in Chicago!

It is also helpful to us that we have an outstanding fee-based online search service (the Computer-Assisted Reference Center, more familiarly known as CARC), to whom we can send our trademark searchers for updating and expansion of their CD-ROM searches. At present, CARC is searching federal and state trademark registration, brand and company names, and relevant databases for (on average) \$10 to \$20 per search. A real bargain!

Our USAPat CD-ROMs continue to pile up in my office, while we consider what to do with them. Our administration has hired a new Director of Library Automation to coordinate all our automation efforts system-wide. As a result, we are just one small voice in a sea of pleading users. There is talk of very large jukeboxes, and everyone seems convinced that we need them, but no actual progress has been made. In fact, when our new Director of Library Automation moved into the building, our telephone line for Internet access disappeared, pirated for her use. So we experienced regress instead of progress. Fortunately, after some months, we have managed to get our telephone line back again.

We now have a home page, accessible at <http://cpl.lib.uic.edu>. Public complaints about the slowness of our workstation are becoming more and more bitter. Where are the new workstations promised for last October?

-Diane Richmond

### Clemson, South Carolina

This has been our busiest year yet! Jan and Ellen conducted a seminar on patent searching basics for a group of small business owners. We also worked with the University's Special Projects staff in presenting a seminar for faculty members outlining Clemson's patent policy. Our segment focused on basic patent searching, and it was so successful that the department has decided to require anyone developing technologies for potential patenting/licensing to complete a preliminary patent search.

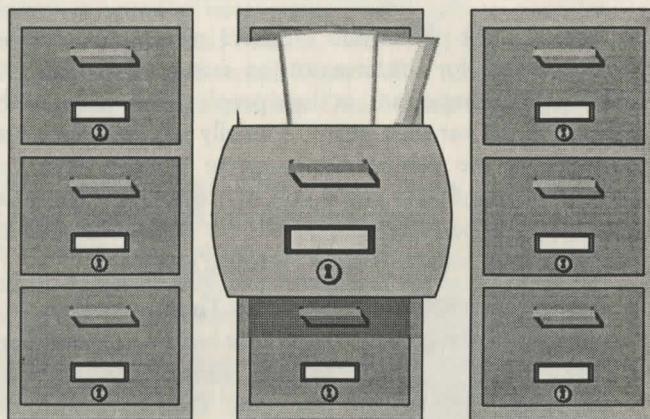
Along with many individual one on one training sessions for users, several training sessions were offered to all staff so that everyone who staffs the Reference Desk is able to assist beginning patent and trademark searchers.

Much of last year was spent analyzing data from a user survey which was conducted in the spring. We now have a clearer picture of our users and their information needs. (Reports summarizing the results are available for the asking.)

The one thing mentioned most often was a desire for a more complete collection of patents.

Well, as and you shall receive! This year, we added *nineteen* years of full-text patents, with the accompanying cabinets! And although orange is one of our school colors,

we did paint the orange cabinets a nice, sedate gray. Our backfiles now extend back to 1973! Many thanks to Martha Crockett Sneed, and Mande Putnam for coordinating this project.



Due to our more complete collection, more referrals from the PTO, and word of mouth, we are now busier than ever. The volume of telephone calls has more than doubled, and walk in traffic has increased substantially.

In an effort to "get the word out," the PTDL has been featured in articles in our Friends' newsletter and several internal Clemson publications.

But perhaps our proudest accomplishment is a front page article in the local newspaper with two (count 'em!) color photographs. The phone has not stopped ringing. So be careful what you wish for...

-Jan Comfort

### Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland Public Library was visited by representatives of the PTO on two occasions last year. Wesley Gewehr, Administrator for Information Dissemination, and Michael Hydorn came in April to see a PTDL in action and to share information concerning the implementation of the new patent pre-grant publication. Martha Sneed paid a visit in November while on a speaking engagement. She described the new partnership initiatives being developed between the PTO and the PTDLs. She recommended that CPL investigate the possibility of affiliating with the newly-created Detroit Public Library's Great Lakes Patent and Trademark Center.

Staff from academic and public libraries in the Akron area vying to become a PTDL visited to gather information. The Akron-Summit County Public Library was finally designated in the fall. That raised the number of PTDLs in Ohio to five.

The subscription to the APS at the middle level satisfied the use requirements of the public. Less than the maximum of 900 hours was used, averaging 69 hours per month. The



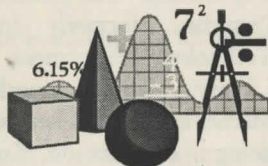
Cleveland Public Library is fortunate to have the resources to be able to offer this service to the public at no charge.

Finally, are we the only ones who find the microfilm tins inside the boxes that Derwent now distributes to be a bit of a hassle?

*-Sig Weinhold*

### College Park, Maryland

The PTDL at the University of Maryland, College Park has experienced another banner year. We have had substantial increases in usage by all our client groups - faculty, staff, students, non-university researchers and inventors, etc.



Our outreach programs have been very limited. Most of our training efforts are focused on class instruction, and in particular, on the ENES 100 engineering class that is required of all engineering majors. We have been steadily increasing our work with these students, and in the last year have provided orientation to patents, technical reports and other library resources to over 600 students during in-library classes. Fall semester 1995 was particularly successful - we worked with all 12 sections (360 students!) that were taught! They must use the technical information available in patents as part of a semester-long project that results in a working (hopefully) model; projects have included windmills, pumps, solar cookers, and, this year, wind-powered vehicles. We are beginning to see many of the students from the first year of the cycle returning for patent searches in support of their junior and senior design classes in mechanical and chemical engineering. Over 100 individual instruction sessions have been provided to other patent researchers in addition to the brief initial training given to our many first-time public users.

Since we are so close to Crystal City, we are blessed with many referrals from the PTO. There have been many memorable questions from these users. Because of the volume of patent and trademark related work that we do in addition to fulfilling our primary academic responsibilities, all our reference staff - librarians, support staff and several talented CLIS (library school) students have developed skills in assisting with patent and trademark questions. Most have attended one or more of the training classes at the Conference, and we hope to again send several new staff members to the patent and trademark classes this year in order to give them the grounding needed at our busy PTDL.

College Park, like so many of the other PTDL's responding to Kevin Harwell's survey regarding USAPat implementation and use, has not been able to provide access to the CD-ROM product. The major impediment is

equipment, particularly that lack of CD-ROM players and laser printers.

We also have not yet made APS available at UMCP. The cost factor has been a major consideration, along with equipment and the unknown demands on our limited staff. We are hoping to begin providing APS within the next year. The experiences of those using it now will help us in deciding how to proceed.

*-Judy Erickson*

### College Station, Texas

The past year was one of change and growth at College Station PTDL. In the Spring, Texas A&M began offering mediated access to the Automated Patent System (APS). Use of this on-line database by patent searchers, members of the small business community, and university officials and professors continues to grow. We wish to thank all the folks at PTDLA, PTDLP, and PTO who made this access possible.

During FY 94-95, we did four Intellectual Property training sessions in conjunction with the Brazos Valley Small Business Development Center (BVSBDCC). We are making tentative plans for a fifth seminar, to be held on March 30 in College Station.

Our PTDL is also in the process of buying additional sections of the backfile with money made available from our Collection Development office. In December, we received our new workstation for CASSIS, a Pentium PC. Patrons are quite pleased with the faster access to patent material.

Both the Texas Engineering Extension Service NASA Mid-Continent Technology Transfer Center and local inventors who were recently granted patents, have taken a renewed interest in our PTDL. We are continuing to expand our efforts to provide quality services and sources to meet the needs of the Bryan/College Station area. We look forward to another busy and successful year here at Texas A&M University Libraries.

*-Brian Carpenter*

### Dallas, Texas

Patent and trademark searchers still tend to show up in waves. We're convinced there is some biological trigger, communal brain wave, or phase of the moon that sends everyone in to do their research at the same time. So far we haven't been able to figure out an exact correlation, but if anyone else has any theories, we'd be glad to hear them. It would make scheduling a lot easier.

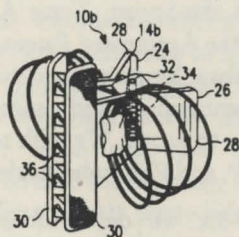
The Automated Patent System has continued to be a well-utilized and appreciated resource. We were pleased to note the PTO is now offering more subscription options for APS and that our trademark searchers will soon have access to the



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"dead" trademarks file (marks that could, among other things, still be in use even though they are no longer registered). This last year, the Dallas patent and trademark collection got a nice mention in Tomima Edmark's book chronicling the development and marketing of her TopsyTail® hair product.

5,441,061  
**INTERCHANGEABLE DECORATIVE ORNAMENT AND METHOD**  
 Gina M. Jordan; Tracie L. Eakin, both of Flower Mound, and Tomima L. Edmark, Dallas, all of Tex., assignors to The Topsytail Company, Dallas, Tex.  
 Filed Feb. 3, 1994, Ser. No. 190,911  
 Int. Cl. A45D 8/12, 8/20  
 U.S. Cl. 132-275 6 Claims



Our library is in the midst of preparing for a long overdue conversion to a new online system. Despite the challenges we're sure to face, I'm really looking forward to it.

It's also interesting to note how rapidly information is becoming available over the Internet. We are trying to stay at least minimally on top of what's out there in the area of intellectual property.

*-Johanna Johnson*

## Denver, Colorado

The Denver Public Library's patent collection has found a new home! With the completion of the multimillion dollar Big New Denver Public Library, the patent collection has relocated to the fourth floor of the new building (Government Publication and Business Reference Department). The patent searching area has been upgraded to include six new microfilm readers, five new stand alone computers (for the CASSIS system), and a beautiful view of downtown Denver.

Also we have started to facilitate workshops on patent searching and have reached out to local organizations like the Rocky Mountain Inventors & Entrepreneurs Congress to improve the library's relationship with the inventing community. We are proud of our accomplishments and hope to continue serving our customers for a long time to come!!

*-Danny Walker*

## Fort Lauderdale, Florida

### Marie Leaves!

Marie Moisden somehow managed to tear herself away from us! In August, she became the new Broward County

Library Planning Officer. She was with the Government Documents Department for about 7 years and her expertise both as department head and as a former PTDL Fellowship Librarian will be greatly missed!

### Staff Shuffle

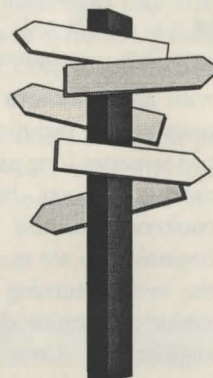
Chris Marhenke, formerly head of the Patent and Trademark Unit, first took a promotion to Assistant Department Head of the Government Documents Department. The position he left was later filled by Eileen Pernicone, formerly from the Business, Science and Technology Department, also at the Broward County Main Library. Several months later, when Marie left, Chris Marhenke assumed her duties in addition to his own, and is doing an excellent job. Kudos!!

### New Staff

We have two other staff members that joined the Documents Department within the past year. Gail Haberland, in the State and Local Documents Unit, and Essie DeNoms, head of the Federal Documents Unit. A warm welcome to our new staff!

### Reorganization

We are looking toward a major change just beyond the horizon: the reorganization of the Main Library. Existing departments, including Government Documents and our PTDL, will be regrouped. Our department will become a part of a larger department that will also encompass business and law, including a one-stop-shopping Business Resource Center. More on this next year. (How's that for a cliffhanger?)



### 1995 Highlights

- The addition of the years 1940-1942 to our U.S. utility patent backfile. The years 1882-1883 and 1936-1939 are coming soon.
- A very successful Invent Broward 1995, and we're well underway with Invent Broward 1996. For readers who are not familiar with Invent Broward, it is our annual, non-competitive exhibit of inventions which are created and built by Broward County elementary school students.
- APS will be coming very soon.

Overall, it's been a very busy, but very exciting year. We're all looking forward to a great 1996!

*-Eileen Pernicone*

## Honolulu, Hawaii

The bad news is that budget cuts forced postponement of our patent backfile purchases for at least three years,



cancellation of most of our serial subscriptions and standing orders, complete loss of control over book funds and collection development, and reduction of hours.

The good news is that we began providing public access to APS and staff searching of the Internet with public Internet access slated for January 1996. Two librarians, Mr. Charles King and Ms. Lynne Kobayashi, joined our staff. We compiled "A Guide to Patent Searching", a brief step-by-step guide, and revised "Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights", a summary of our resources.

The electricity is still on, the sun is shining, it's 85 degrees outside, and we still live in Hawaii.

*-Jan Tawarahara*

### **Houston, Texas**

News from the PTDL at Rice University, Houston, Texas

This was a busy year! We did many department tours for all sorts of groups: elementary school students, freshman, graduate students, and campus committees. In addition, we continued to offer our popular patent search class. In 1995 we taught 42 class sessions with 548 attendees. This is a slight increase over last year which is a real feat since we went from four to two instructors early in the year. We also participated in the Young Inventors and Creators Program.

One of the more exciting projects of the year was teaching patent searching to high school students using patent resources on the Internet. In fact, the students weren't even in the classroom where I lectured! The students attend the Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes, Texas. Mercedes is a small community near the Mexico border, over 250 miles from Houston. The Science Academy high school is one of four schools linked to Rice University through video-conferencing. I taught the class using video-conferencing with a "producer" who helped switch between views of me talking, blowup views of patents and handouts, and views of my computer screen with live connections to the Internet. The students were in their computer lab, viewing the feed from Rice on the monitor in their classroom and connecting to various sites on the Internet as I demonstrated them. Since the students and I could see each other, it was easy to ask and answer questions. The class was fun and a great success.

These students' ability to research was greatly expanded when they received the kind gift of ten years of Official Gazettes for their school library. These were donated by the Dana Corporation, with coordinating assistance from Lisa Hoenig from the Toledo PTDL and Mande Putnam of the PTDL. Special thanks to Lisa and Mande for helping with this!

Hope to see you all in March!

*-Amy Spare*

### **Indianapolis, Indiana**



Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library had no earth-shattering events, just plugging along with lots of business. The trademark searches seem to have especially exploded, keeping us busy telling some that, no, they don't want to copyright that business name.

*-Phyllis Karrh*

### **Jackson, Mississippi**

The staff of the Mississippi Library Commission Patent and Trademark Research Library has been involved in five inventors' seminars during the past year. Arranged by the Mississippi Small Business Development Center, the seminars included basic patent searching procedures, types of patents and other intellectual property protection, and how to market an invention. Three more seminars are scheduled for the winter.

In January, the MLC PTRL will have a booth at the Mississippi Business Expo, a trade show of about two hundred Mississippi companies. We think this will be an excellent opportunity to publicize our services to a large group of potential clients. Staff will demonstrate CASSIS products and other patent and trademark resources.

A new brochure describing the collections and services was printed in October and widely distributed to libraries, inventors, and businesses around the state. Copies will be available at the PTDLA conference in March.

*-Tom Henderson*

### **Kansas City, Missouri**

Linda Hall Library

We got a second CASSIS workstation set up in April of 1995, and I wonder how we got along without it. We have had a lot more trademark searchers this year, and there are many times when both machines are in use.

We brought APS up in August but have used it very little so far. Still trying to figure out just how and when to make use of it.

We have a home page up: (<http://www.lhl.lib.mo.us/>) with some patent and trademark info and links.

*-Shannon Stipe*

### **Little Rock, Arkansas**

1995 got off to a fast start at Arkansas State Library. In January we sent out a survey to update our mailing list. This



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survey asked if the recipients wanted to remain on our mailing list and if their interest was in Patents or Trademarks. We received a fairly good response and were able to narrow our mailing list to those truly interested in Patents and Trademarks.

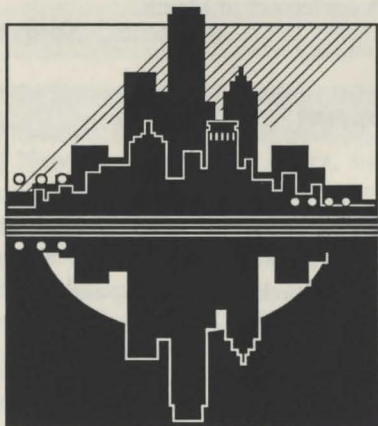
One high point during the year was a segment on a local TV station in June dealing with Invention Scams. ABC affiliate, KATV Channel 7 has a popular consumer affairs segment titled "7 On Your Side". They profiled some inventors, warned about invention scams and filmed a patron doing a patent search at Arkansas State Library. All 3 reference librarians and Mary were shown during different steps of the patent search.

In September, the National Innovative Workshop was in Little Rock, with Mary on the planning committee. Of course attendance was not as high as it was in 1992! Our exhibit with CASSIS and Trademark CD's was busy throughout the conference. Our usage at the library increased following the conference. I presented a program with the Information Specialist from the Small Business Development Center on Business Sources at local libraries where I talked about the Patent and Trademark Depository Library.

We added a new reference librarian, Mark Dobbins, on February 12th and are now fully staffed for the first time since September. We are eager to indoctrinate him into patent and trademark searching.

*-Deborah Hall*

### Los Angeles, California



In 1995, the Los Angeles Public Library's Patent and Trademark Depository became a partner with a person named LUMMIS. This was not some mysterious benefactor, but the name of the Central Library's new local area network, and through it, the

Library could double the number of public access CASSIS workstations in the building.

LUMMIS (named for historian and former City Librarian Charles Lummis) is an acronym for Library's Unparalleled Method for Managing Information Systems. It was installed throughout the library in stages throughout 1995. Besides expanding the Patent and Trademark searching, it has also allowed users to search a variety of databases covering many different subjects without having to travel from floor to floor. However, because of the unique nature of information on the CASSIS system, and because of licensing agreements, the

Patent and Trademark CD-ROMs can be accessed only from four workstations in the Science, Technology, and Patents Department. (Staff can access some of the information at the Patents Service Desk and at the Reference Desks in both the Science and Business and Economics Departments.)

Obviously, with four stations available, waiting times to use the CD-ROMs has dropped dramatically. Most users can use the computers when needed, although there are still time limitations if people are waiting. Two of the workstations are attached to a laser printer. One computer is configured so that it can be operated independently of the LAN if LUMMIS crashes.

Staff from LAPL's PTDL attended and mounted exhibits at the Labor Day weekend Invention Convention in Pasadena and the Creativity in America Convention in Universal City in late October. The two trade shows resulted in bringing awareness of PTDL resources and services to thousands of attendees.

Librarian Bob Timmermann attended a workshop at the Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention, and Ideas (SCI<sup>3</sup>) in October with librarians from other California PTDLs on the PTO's plans for Pre-grant Publications.

Librarian Helen Haskell made presentations to various Central Library subject departments about copyright fair use restrictions.

Billie Connor was a speaker (together with staff from SCI<sup>3</sup> and a representative of the PTO) at a program presented by the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association in December.

Jacqueline Ruben made a presentation on government documents and intellectual property resources to students at the Graduate Library School at Fullerton, California (a branch of the San Jose State University program).

Patent Attorney Robert M. Sperry presented a seminar on the process of "idea to intellectual property protection to market" to a large audience on November 4 in the Library's Mark Taper Auditorium, the second such seminar in 1995.

LAPL has also started its own home page on the World Wide Web. While still a work in progress, information about Central Library and the branches of the Los Angeles Public Library is available. Also, there is a link to the PTO Web page. The address for the LAPL home page is: <http://www.lapl.org>.

Los Angeles Public Library also bid farewell to Donna Cooper, who had supervised the day-to-day functions of the Patents Service Desk at the Central Library since 1980.

During that period, Donna performed yeoman's service in the recovery process following the major fire of April 29, 1986, when all of the intellectual property collection was destroyed. She participated in the Save the Books Campaign as well. That drive raised money to completely rebuild and enhance the collection. Donna spent 1994 as a PTDL Fellow



in the Patent and Trademark Office and later took a full time job at Garcia Consulting in the Washington, DC area.

In Donna's absence, Helen Haskell took over responsibility for the daily operations of the Patents Service Desk. In late December, Helen began a three-month leave, and Bob Timmermann has been overseeing the Patents Desk since then.

Although 1995 was a very challenging year with reduced staffing and heavy demand for services, Los Angeles' PTDL has succeeded in maintaining a high quality of public service – our top priority.

*-Billie Connor & Bob Timmermann*

### **Louisville, Kentucky**

In September, 1995, staff spoke at the Louisville section of the American Chemical Society meeting. The ACS had also printed a short article on our PTDL in their October, 1995, newsletter; and, continue to print the date of our monthly patent workshop.

The monthly patent workshops continue to be held and are well-attended.

The Louisville Free Public Library is at the end of a 4.4 million dollar 5-year technology plan which is allowing APS/USAPat equipment to be ordered. This service should start in the first quarter of 1996. LFPL has also contracted with a debit card vendor for all library print services and is interested in how this may impact APS, etc.

LFPL received a certificate of recognition from the Judge Executive for Jefferson County for assistance with last year's Black History Month Black Inventors project.

*-Charles L. Brown*

### **Madison, Wisconsin**

The PTDL at the University of Wisconsin's Wendt Engineering Library continues to be busy with patent and trademark questions. The patent and trademark databases are now available on seven public terminals, and we often find all the terminals being used for patent or trademark searching.

Staff members have given lectures to three courses in the College of Engineering, courses in the Library School and College of Agriculture, and a seminar open to the public.

During the fall semester, we completed work on the patents/trademarks component of the Wendt home page.

Check us out!

TheURL is:

<http://www.wisc.edu/wendt/reso/patent/patent.html>

A CD-ROM cabinet has been purchased to store the growing number of USAPat CDs, and we've begun to plan for work stations to accommodate viewing and printing of the patents from the CDs.

*-Sarah Calcese*

### **Miami, Florida**

Two of our most valued colleagues (and expert patent & trademark information providers), Cheryl Hammock and Trish Van Houten, left our library system this past year. We'll miss them both.

We will be getting a new online public access catalog system this year, and hope to be able to make use of the USAPat discs. We have continued our subscription to APS and are limiting it to staff use. We are also continuing to require appointments for patent assistance. Our library system now has a home page on the World Wide Web at the following address (<http://cga.mdpls.lib.fl.us/mdpl.htm>).

Bob Klein, our PTDL representative, recently spoke at a conference, "Making Invention Pay," sponsored by the Florida Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, and other federal and state agencies. He spoke about sources of information available through PTDLs and other libraries.

*-Bob Klein*

### **Moscow, Idaho**

This has been an interesting and busy year at the University of Idaho. We have seen an increase in the use of the patent collection and an even greater increase in the amount of trademark searching. We are looking forward to new equipment. We hope to be able to use the old equipment just for trademark searching and use the new equipment for patents.

Students in Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering joined the Agricultural Mechanization and Mechanical Engineering students in the use of the patent collection for their senior design projects. We have also seen students in Mathematics use the patent collection in support of projects related to knot theory in mathematics.

For the second year we worked with the gifted and talented elementary school students as they prepared for creative thinking projects. One of the second grade students won a trip to California to present his project. Once again we were invited to attend their Creativity Fair.

For the first time, we worked with the Small Business Entrepreneurs Workshop. Most of the activity was related to trademarks, but we also did some instruction in the use of the patent searching materials. This seems to be a new activity in the Small Business Development Center. We have another



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program scheduled in the southeast region of the state for February 1996.

The Director of our Arboretum is making extensive use of the plant patent collection, especially the new paper copies. He and I both thank you for this new format.

Several inventors and our interlibrary loan unit use the USAPat CD-ROMs to make copies of patents.

We really appreciate the full date of issue information that now appears in the CASSIS BIB file. This is especially helpful when referring to the *Official Gazette* issues. Thanks to PTO for an excellent innovation.

-Donna Hanson

### Memphis, Tennessee

The Patent and Trademark sources of the Memphis Public Library continue to support an ever increasing demand for "do it yourself searching." Our patent and trademark searching guides, which were updated in 1995, are also very popular among our patrons.

-Christopher Barstow

### New York, New York

The biggest news at the New York Public Library PTDL is, of course, the upcoming move to the new Science, Industry and Business Library. This library will combine the staff and materials now located in the Science and Technology Center (including Patents) and the Economics and Public Affairs Division.

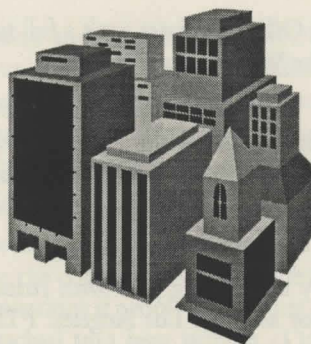
NYPL has jumped onto the World Wide Web bandwagon. All the librarians and technical staff were trained in how to use it, and nearly all the librarians in SIBL were trained to write HTML documents. I wrote a series of fifteen pages related to Patents and Trademarks, many of which have been loaded on our public server.

As part of the preparation for the new library, I have written several "user guides" on topics such as NAFTA, GATT and TRIPS, Trademark Searching, etc.

IBM has chosen one of them ("Basic Patent Searching") for the first "story" to work with for the user "kiosk" they are creating for the new library.

In addition to giving user access to floor plans, database reservations, and upcoming events, it will also be used for "stories" that librarians tell many times a day.

Using special software they are developing (called StoryMaker), I was responsible for "translating" my textual handout into a visual, interactive story.



At the new library NYPL will, for the first time, be offering bibliographic instruction in some of our "basic" subject areas, such as how to find company information or use government documents. I have been asked to design and lead the Patents and Trademarks session.

I will be using this course first to train staff members with no patents experience who will need to know some of the basics by opening day.

The new library will open on May 2, 1996. Please come down and have a look if you visit New York City. (We will be just across the street from the Empire State Building!)

-Donna Hopkins

### Orlando, Florida

Our promotion efforts this year focused on the Inventor's Expo that was held locally at Disney's EPCOT Center in September. Because September is a month that seasonal passes are valid (for Florida residents), the Expo attracted locals as well as tourists. More than 100 booths were set up in a prominent place. We brought handouts, and the PTO brought pamphlets as well as the 3-volume set *Manual of Classification*. Along with the Ft. Lauderdale PTDL, we also served as booth sitters for the PTO's booths.

In May, the UCF Library display was: "Patents and Trademarks Through the Years". I accumulated a hodgepodge of interesting as well as serious items that had been patented and/or for which trademarks had been issued. For example, both the Frisbee® brand flying saucer and Slinky® brand metal toy were shown - both were patented. Also included were an old Polaroid® brand camera, a Mrs. Fields brand frozen cookie dough box, a model rocket, a balsa wood airplane, a Band-Aid® brand bandage container tin, a Big Mac® brand hamburger (from Japan), Velcro® brand adhesive fabric, a disposable contact lens container from Johnson and Johnson, a color photograph of a recent plant patent, and a replica of the original Coke® brand soft drink bottle.

For the patented items, I included a photocopy from the *Official Gazette*, or a photocopy of the front page of the patent. In most instances, I also included several sentences about the history of the product. It received many favorable comments, and we took parts of it to a teacher at a local high school as well. The teacher even gave a quiz based on the display.

-Patricia Kenly



**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

For the lack of something more clever or catchy, it seems appropriate to borrow from Mr. Dickens to describe the previous year at the Free Library of Philadelphia: the best of times and the worst of times.

Business is booming Philadelphia and FY 95 showed a 51% increase over FY 94. From an area not much bigger than a triple seated out-house, more than 25,000 patrons received assistance either in-person or through some other form of communication,

Although outreach programs were limited, several programs were held on the sweeping changes in patent law. An additional workshop was also held to inform interested patrons about the various ways to protect software. The depository also participated in the Small Business Convention sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

In April, Philadelphia signed on to the APS, and it has been met with moderate success and interest. APS has not, however, attracted many within the legal and business communities. The Library is thus far absorbing the cost for this service, although, there are future plans to implement charges.

Antiquated equipment, limited staffing and space help to create challenges in continuing to meet the growing needs of the public. On those days when nothing seems to be functioning (including the staff), there is a temptation to say to the patrons, "no we don't have, no we can't do nor do we want to do." Fortunately, these days are few and patron appreciation and the support of the OPTDLP does help to limit the worst of times.

Taking advantage of the best of times and the worst of times, the Patent Collection, with the assistance of the Development Office, has been able to raise nearly \$6,000 from the legal community towards the purchase of new equipment; prosperity is just around the corner.

*-Betsy Lowther*

**Portland, Oregon**

PLEASE NOTE: THE STATE LIBRARY IN SALEM, OR IS NO LONGER A PTDL. The PTDL in Oregon is now at the Paul L. Boley Library, Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

**Providence, Rhode Island**

Providence Public Library continues to be a busy location for seekers of patent and trademark information. Last year

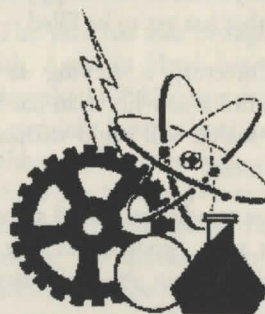
we saw an increase of 8.4% of patent and trademark inquiries, and this year anticipate even more of an increase, since the library has expanded access, increasing its hours to Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Unfortunately, the staff has not increased, so outreach activities have been limited; although again this year, the library will be involved in RI Business Expo, which will highlight library services, including patent and trademark information.

*-Ann Poulos*

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

The major news from Raleigh which impacts PTDL service is the merger of the Documents Department and the Reference Department into the new Research and Information Services Department. This means that all service will be provided from one desk on the main floor of the D. H. Hill Library.

How will this affect the PTDL users? The new location will be much easier to find. The directions to locate the PTDL will be shortened by at least a minute. The number of staff trained to assist with patent and trademark research will increase. To smooth this transition, Jean Porter, the PTDL Representative has provided patent searching instruction to the staff in the former Reference Department. Additional sessions covering APS and trademark searching will be offered soon.



**Information on Searching  
for Patents**

The unveiling of a web site for patent searching by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has added another dimension to our service. Now we can offer this method of access to remote users. It also provides us will additional access in-house when both CASSIS and APS are busy. Ten to

twelve terminals in the library have Web capability. In addition, the NCSU Libraries has added the USPTO/CNIDR Patents Bibliographic Database to its web site at <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu>

Additional training provided by Jean Porter included an recent "Exploring the Internet" class focusing on patent information which is open to anyone on the NCSU campus. Every semester she provides instruction on patent searching to the Patent Law class from North Carolina Central University. There is also an introduction to intellectual property class offered here on the NCSU campus for which Ms. Porter provides the patent searching instruction. And for the first time, information on patents as science literature was



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presented to the Science Bibliography class from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science.

In the NCSU Libraries' *Newsletter* which is distributed across campus, Mary Ellen Spencer, our electronic resources librarian, has a monthly column called "CD-ROM Update/Documents Department" in which she announces the most recent release of all PTO CD-ROMs.

Trademark information is in great demand as well. The PTDL responded to over 600 trademark requests in FY 1994-95.

We are always pleased when a person who did her research here is successful. One of our clients, Shirley Blount, from Durham, NC received a patent on December 6, 1994. Recently, while researching a new idea, she brought this to our attention. The invention patent number 5,369,820 is a "Toilet Training Potty". She has been interviewed on local TV and is now on the verge of successfully marketing her invention. This is quite a testament to the independent inventor.

-Jean Porter

### Rapid City, South Dakota

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

In October of 1995, the Devereaux Library lost Coleen Coble to the local Hospital Library. She is very happy there, but has left a void in our library that has yet to be filled.

Patty Andersen, Interim Director, is serving as the temporary contact with PTDL until a new librarian has been hired and trained. Hopefully a search will begin within the next few months for that replacement.

Activity in the PTDL area has steadily increased since it's beginnings just two short years ago. Students, faculty and people from off campus are all finding out about the services available to them through the Patent Office.

-Patty Andersen

### Sacramento, California

The California State Library experienced another year of growth in the number of patent and trademark searchers taking advantage of the PTDL collection and services (nothing new about that!). The number of patrons interested specifically in trademark information has increased noticeably.

The local newspaper has published two articles on the patent process - one was a Sunday feature - over the past three years; both featured the library and quoted staff, and undoubtedly these articles have helped to expand our clientele.

We currently have three stand-alone public microcomputer stations available for our PTO, federal, and

state CD-ROM collections, but it is not unusual to have all three occupied by patent/trademark searchers.

-Tom Andersen

### St. Louis, Missouri

Fiscal year 1994-1995 saw 59.6% increase in patent questions and a 65.9% increase in trademark questions from FY 1993-1994.

In 1995 I did several presentations to elementary school students (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> graders) doing lessons on inventions and inventive thinking. The students had their own inventions, and they were eager to talk about them. The presentations did not focus on the mechanics of searching but rather on keeping enthusiasm for inventing and on encouraging creativity.

Another presentation was to the Inventors Association of St. Louis on conducting a preliminary patentability search at St. Louis Public Library (SLPL).

The third presentation was to SLPL Branch Managers. Its purpose was to acquaint them with patent and trademark searching and with the types of questions we can and cannot answer so that they can make appropriate referrals.

Aside from presentations, other patent concerns are:

1. APS is still in the works for SLPL pending some hardware decisions.
2. We look forward to receiving the USAPat workstations to be able to use the discs collected so far.
3. A Museum of Black Inventors is scheduled to open in St. Louis in February 1996.
4. As I write this in January, I am looking forward to my year as a Fellowship Librarian. Don Allen, a colleague from SLPL, will be taking my place in Business, Science & Technology, and he is currently making plans to attend this year's conference.
5. Last, but truly not least, I would like to offer congratulations and best wishes to Carole Shores on her retirement.

-Carol Giles

### Salt Lake City, Utah

Patent and trademark activities continued at high levels this past year at the Salt Lake City PTDL, with the exceptions of APS searching and patent document delivery



The major expansion of the Marriott Library, which began in late March 1994, now approaches its second anniversary. All major research areas and activities within the Library continue to be affected by the project. We are now beginning to plan for the "Big Move" of the Documents Division sometime in fall 1996. We will move down one floor in the



original building and take over the entire space originally occupied by our Science and Engineering Library, almost doubling the space we now have. Despite the constant intrusion by construction – needing to stop and shift significant portions of the collection, or entire days filled with the sound of jackhammers – our day-to-day patent and trademark requests appeared to steadily increase.

Although we've had the APS system back for almost a year, our usage levels have never returned to anything like the levels of the past. Our patrons seem unable to accept payment of access fees in the academic environment, no matter how we describe the advantages of searching in a full-text database. Despite this continuing resistance, we will continue to promote the APS around the university and community.

In the last couple of years we've been referring requests for patent copies as much as possible to professional copy services. We believe that these services can do their job better and cheaper than we can here in the university library, except when the speed of delivery is a factor. As a result, the number of patent copies we're providing continues to decrease.

In this next year, we look forward to setting up our second CASSIS workstation with the receipt of additional hardware, and the possibility of receiving hardware assistance from the USPTO for making use of the USAPat CD-ROMs.

-David L. Morrison

### **San Francisco, California**

In January of 1994, San Francisco Public Library became the 77<sup>th</sup> Patent and Trademark Depository Library. The last two years have been quite hectic and exciting for us. Not only have we been organizing our new PTDL, but we have also been planning our move into a new main library. The PTDL will be part of the new Government Information Center. It will be named the Brooks-Walker Patent and Trademark Center.



When the Center is opened in April of 1996, it will feature eight workstations, one of which will be dedicated to searching the APS (Automated Patent System).

The rest will be available for patent and trademark searches.

We are also purchasing a thirty-five year backfile of full-text patents in CD and microfilm formats.

The print resources include a complete run of the *Official Gazette* and a print and microfilm set of its precursor, the *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents*.

Our collection is used primarily by small-scale entrepreneurial inventors and product developers who want to file a patent or register a trademark. Thus, in addition to many copies of Pressman's 4<sup>th</sup> edition of *Patent It Yourself*, we have purchased a large reference and circulating collection of recent "How-to" and "Do-it-yourself" publications explaining how to search for or register and patent or trademark and how to avoid the many perils and pitfalls.

Finally, we are setting up a government documents web page, and I'm looking for interesting intellectual property links. If anyone has any tips, please feel free to e-mail me at the address listed below.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you at the conference!

-Art Cheroske  
arthurc@sfpl.lib.ca.us

### **Seattle, Washington**

The past year has been a busy one at the Seattle PTDL at the University of Washington Engineering Library. I think Johanna at the Dallas PTDL is right about weird effects and convergence or waves or something; my theory is that someone suddenly puts a sign up on the interstate. Or maybe it's all the caffeine....



The year has also brought some staffing changes. Dottie Smith, Assistant Head, has taken a temporary assignment to initiate the UW Libraries fee-based service, Research Express. We certainly love to have such a service available for referral: "Is there anyone there who can do the search for me?" "Well, we have this fee-based research service..." Dottie is a frequent visitor to our patent & trademark research area! Thomas Dowling, the author of our patent & trademark WWW information pages and tutorial, is now with OhioLink. We have two temporary librarians, Rob Estes and Chandra Heller, who are working on updates to those pages, as well as constructing the Engineering Library's "home" on the UW Libraries site (checkout the work in progress at <http://weber.u.washington.edu/~englib/>). Chandra and Rob have also been invaluable in providing reference service to the PTDL patrons. Chandra also updated our patent and trademark workbooks.

There has been a noticeable increase in the student use of the patent materials, especially for the mechanical engineering classes. In the fall of 1995, I began offering an "Introduction to Patents & Patent Searching" class as part of the regular group of Engineering Library instruction sessions. When we get APS up and running, I plan to add training sessions for UW faculty, staff, and students. Access to APS will be only



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for UW affiliates at first, until we work out a practical training and billing system for off-campus users.

We continue to attract many intellectual property questions via e-mail. The hottest questions at the moment from all patent and trademark patrons is, of course, concern accessing intellectual property information and databases via the Internet and WWW. Our handout about these sites is in great demand. There is an electronic version of it on our home page.

Equipment remains a concern. The USAPat discs are in filing cabinet in the staff area. When we upgrade some of our other library public workstations, we might be able to swap one for our older CASSIS computer, which continues to grind away, albeit at an extremely slow snail's pace. Even our "newer" CASSIS workstation is not fast enough for some people (it is a 386). Access to the WWW patent bibliographic databases is a handy backup.

To end on an interesting note: a University of Washington graduate was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame. Waldo Lonsbury, class of '20 & '24, invented vinyl (polyvinyl chloride), which is one of the most heavily used plastics.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for contributing to this, my first ever effort as a newsletter editor. Hopefully, next year, I will improve and get this thing out earlier! ☺ Now...on to planning a session about patents at the annual American Society of Engineering Education Conference in June!

*-Christina Byrne*

### Springfield, Illinois

Highlights of the year included a two day series of workshops featuring Jeanne Oliver and Lou Falasco. ISL feels that we have provided Lou with a sort of warm-up for Sunnyvale's exciting new partnership program. Welcoming Jeanne home is always a special treat for all of ISL's staff. On day one, the invited participants were primarily the intellectual property managers and staffs from Illinois public universities. On day two, staff and librarians from area PTDLs and other libraries who serve "inquiring minds" were invited.

This fall one of ISL's more aggressive users was a young woman who has since been selected by the Farm Bureau national federation as one of 20 nationwide innovators in agribusiness. It is very exciting and gratifying to see how versatile use of public and private resources can be used to achieve something special by someone who catches fire with an idea.

During the last week of December ISL's PTDL was again recognized by its users in a publication. If your PTDL doesn't have tool collectors, why not? Jim and Phyllis Moffet have spent hours of loving labor collecting, copying and indexing every patent they could identify as relating to hand

held corn husking tools. What was the genesis of such an interest? In 1938 corn husking was a top "sport" in the middle west. Jim's family farm hosted a "meet" which inspired an attendance of 85,000. The joys of patents.

Our typical use remains long distance telephone, fax and mail. Our two-footed use seems to be slowly increasing.

We are anxious to share and work with all of our friends in adjoining states. Perhaps this is a legacy of Mr. Lincoln's patent interest.

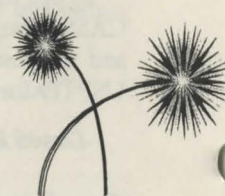
*-Jane Running*

### Stillwater, Oklahoma

During 1995 there was a changing of the guard at the PTDL in Stillwater. Jennifer Paustenbaugh, President of the PTDLA, is now Director of Library Development and Outreach for OSU's Edmon Low Library.

Jennifer is recognized in Oklahoma as an authority in the world of independent inventors and in matters relating to intellectual property. As a result of Jennifer's professional competence and dedication to achieving excellence, Stillwater has a PTDL of which it can be proud.

This year we will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> official year as a Patent and Trademark Depository Library, and we are in the process of finalizing our home page for the World Wide Web, so anniversary information and news will be available soon on our PTDL home page.



For patrons using our library, we have installed an Internet workstation and provided "bookmarks" to Internet sites featuring patent and intellectual property information. This gives our users quick access to information dealing with patents and related subject matter without having to surf the Internet.

During 1995 a noteworthy patron of our PTDL was a 96-year-old inventor from Norman who was in to do a search.

*-Billie Curry*

### Sunnyvale, California

The Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention and Ideas (SCI<sup>3</sup>) just celebrated its first anniversary as a PTO partnership with a gala dinner and two-day patent seminar. Commissioner Bruce Lehman, Deputy Commissioner Larry Goffney, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Kunin joined 200 dinner guests for the celebration dinner.

The two-day seminar covered current issues in patent policy and practice, with special focus on software, biotechnology and GATT/NAFTA.

As one of two PTDL partnerships (the other is the Great Lakes Patent and Trademark Center in Detroit), SCI<sup>3</sup> was



also presented with a plaque from the White House National Performance Review designating it as a National Reinvention Laboratory.

Over the past year, SCI<sup>3</sup> has introduced videoconferencing for interviews with examiners and APS image access with two custom workstations. As a partner, SCI<sup>3</sup> is also a "cyberspace repository" for foreign patents and can order them directly from the PTO via high speed fax. SCI<sup>3</sup> also receives expedited service on orders of file wrappers, assignment documents and other certified documents from the PTO.

The West Coast business and intellectual property communities are delighted to have access to PTO service on-site in Sunnyvale.

*-Mary Clare Sprott*

### **Tempe, Arizona**

We are currently developing a Web site that will bring patent, trademark, and copyright information directly to Arizonans in their homes, offices, or at their local public libraries. The Web site will give detailed information about the Arizona State University PTDL and will include listings of services, publications, and hours, as well as location and parking information. In addition, there will be links that connect the user with legal materials, FAQs, search information, and local and federal agencies and resources.

Preliminary pages can be viewed at <http://www.lib.asu.edu/noble/ptdl/welcome.htm>

Comments are welcome.

We, too, continue to try to keep up with equipment needs by juggling between APS and CASSIS. We still give special orientations, particularly to our corporate APS users, and have written an introductory guide to using APS, "Searching APS (General Instructions)," which has proved to be especially useful.

*-Diana Pfaff*

### **Toledo, Ohio**

1995 was a year of excitement and change for the Toledo Lucas-County Public Library. In March the Library migrated from its outmoded TLM catalog to the DRA system we call TIGER (Toledo's Information Gateway to Electronic Resources). The migration means keyword and Boolean searching, authority control, and Internet access.

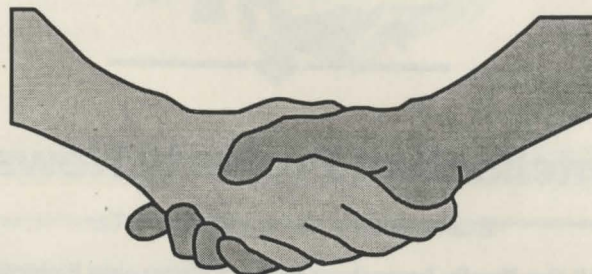
You can now find our home page on the Internet at <http://www.toledo.library.oh.us>.

In November, Lucas County voters passed a capital improvements bond issue for \$10 million over 10 years. These moneys will be used in part to expand and renovate our 56-year-old Main Library. Additional space desperately

needed for our patent and trademark collections now seems to be on its way.

PTO officials visited us several times throughout the year, and invited us to play a part in their Partnership with the Detroit Public Library.

In August we met with PTO and DPL representatives to discuss the feasibility of becoming the Great Lakes Patent and Trademark Center's "Gateway to Ohio". The relationship benefits both libraries, and ultimately our customers. We are grateful for the praise, support, and equipment the PTDL has given us, and look forward to working cooperatively with DPL.



We started doing APS searches in October. So far, searching has been mainly for reference purposes, but a public terminal should be up and running in '96 as a part of our "Gateway to Ohio." We also upgraded our CASSIS system to a 486, which vastly improves searching speed.

I presented many programs in 1995, speaking to groups of students, teachers, and attorneys, and giving a formal patent searching workshop in August.

In October the Library hosted the first meeting of the Inventors Council of Toledo, a fledgling Chapter of a group first established in Dayton. Our December meeting boasted 51 attendees from four states! I have found a good champion who is to become President in '96; we are looking forward to an exciting year of building and helping our membership.

*-Lisa Hoenig*

### **University Park, Pennsylvania**

Patent and trademark usage at Penn State University remains steady, with increased interest in informal demonstrations for users on campus. Additionally, interest from MBA students and faculty researching intellectual property law has brought new users to our PTDL.

Due to increased demands on staff from all fronts and because of liability issues, we have had to curtail much of our telephone assistance with patent and trademark searches, which was utilized by non-Penn State users. Callers are now asked to do their own searches or directed to resources in their geographic area.

Fortunately, the PTO's World Wide Web page and Patent Bibliographic Data are available to anyone who can connect



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to the Internet. We often refer patrons who cannot make the trip to University Park, due to snowy mountain roads or other problems, to the PTO's page.

We also have a list of libraries around the state that maintain substantial holdings of the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, and frequently recommend that remote users can do a search on Patent Bibliographic Data, then check their results at one of these libraries. Internet access to patent information is really appreciated.

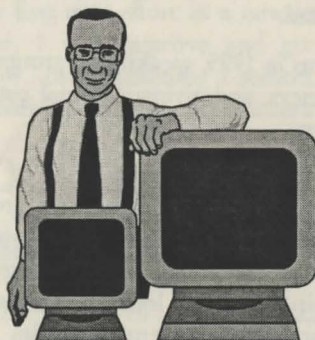
-Kevin R. Harwell

## Intellectual Property News

Brian Carpenter, College Station, PTDL

**All the Really Important News Concerning Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks**

### Yikes! A Name Crisis for Computers?!



With the exponential growth of technology continuing, some computer industry analysts are wondering whether there are enough names for computers and computer-related equipment available. Companies like to have a name which consumers will find catchy

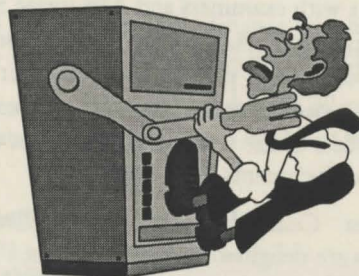
and easy to remember, but the PTO worries that there may not be many of these left. The explosion of the Internet, computer software, and other computer-related equipment has created a drought of names which companies are starting to feel. The end result shows almost a 70% jump in the number of trademark applications and a nearly 115% jump in applications for marks in the scientific and computer-related fields. Some businesses are worried by this "name crisis," but others look at the situation as just another opportunity to exploit. Some companies have decided to use unusual names to advertise their goods and services; they claim that it is easier for people to remember the unusual.

Source: Howard Bryant, *San Antonio News Express*, Business, Sunday, December 17, 1995, 1J:4-3J.

### Microsoft® Takes on Pirates

Microsoft has hauled out its big guns against persons who illegally produce or sell its software. In Saudi Arabia, the computer industry giant is planning to circumvent the pirates' influence by encouraging businesses to buy legal copies of

Microsoft's programs. This plan comes only two years after the country introduced legislation to protect intellectual property and supplements its efforts to clean up its retail market.



Microsoft representatives note that Saudi Arabia is doing better at combating piracy, but this problem still plagues the country's institutions, such as universities and banks.

Source: Robyn Meredith, *USA Today*, Moneyline, Wednesday, May 31, 1995, 1:1C.

### Spam® vs. Spa'am

A Federal judge decided last Tuesday that Spa'am, the high priest of wild boars in the new movie *Muppet Treasure Island*, can keep his name. Hormel, the producer of Spam, was afraid that the new muppet character, who essentially is introduced as a villain, would turn customers away from the famous chopped ham in a can. The judge ruled that this was not so. She stated that youngsters would most likely not think Spa'am was represented or endorsed by Hormel. The ruling leaves the movie's producers, Jim Henson Associates, free to finalize Spa'am licensing agreements with General Mills, McDonald's, and Hershey Chocolate. Hormel is planning to appeal the ruling.



Source: *USA Today*, Money, Wire Reports, Monday, September 25, 1995, 6:5B.

### More Troubles for O.J.

Even though the Trial of the Century is winding down, O.J. Simpson is facing new disputes, including one over the use of his name. Trademark lawyer Bill Ritchie of Concord, New Hampshire is sending out the battle cry. He states that it is objectionable for O.J. to have the right to trademark his name and nicknames. Simpson's lawyers have applied to the PTO for exclusive rights to sell 120 products under the names "O.J.," "O.J. Simpson," and "Juice." Ritchie has stated he'll block any attempt to grant these trademarks to Simpson.

Source: *USA Today*, News, The O.J. File, The Trial in Brief, Wednesday, September 27, 1995, 4:1A.



## Musical Copyrights



This Wednesday, creative artists' representatives came to the Nation's Capitol to voice their support for a bill which would allow copyright protection to protect a song for the lifetime of the artist plus 70 years. The current law allows for protection for the lifetime of the artist plus 50 years. Songwriters and other musical artists are enthusiastic, saying the extended protection will encourage creativity. Detractors say, however, that extending the term of copyright protection will only ensure that obscure works remain obscure.

Source: Arlene Vigoda, *USA Today*, Lifeline, Friday, September 21, 1995, 1:1D.

## Editor's Note

My many thanks go to Jennifer Paustenbaugh, the former editor of the PTDLA Newsletter. Jennifer provided advice and encouragement, as well as mailing labels and the PTDLA logo for the letterhead.

-Christina Byrne



## Membership Information - Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association

To: PTDLA Members and Conference XIX Participants  
 From: Dave Morrison, PTDLA Treasurer  
 Subject: PTDLA Membership and Dues

Welcome, in advance, to the 1996 Annual Conference and the 1996/7 membership year of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA)!

As Treasurer of the Association for 1995/6, I hope you will consider joining the PTDLA for the next year, or renewing your existing membership. For those who are new to the PTDL program, regular membership in the Association is open to any person employed in a Patent & Trademark Depository Library. Regular members may vote at PTDLA business meetings during the conference, and may hold elective offices or appointive positions. Associate membership is open to anyone interested in the PTDL program who is not eligible for regular membership. Dues for membership, either regular or associate, remains a modest \$10.00 per year.

Our operating budget for the year comes entirely from these membership fees. This allows us to provide most of the refreshments served at the Conference; print and mail our newsletter; and buy our own stationery and supplies. In the recent past, many of these expenses were born by generous individuals and libraries, until the members voted for the annual membership and conference fees to ease that financial burden. If you are proud of your Association and the services it provides to you as a patent information professional, please support us with your membership.

On the next page you will find a conference fee/membership form for this year. This form may be photocopied and distributed to anyone who didn't receive this mailing. Please mail the completed form and dues to the PTDLP Office in Washington. As in previous years, I'm delighted to be able to participate in our Annual Conference, and look forward to seeing you there.

**A note about conference fees:** The Patent and Trademark Depository Library Association (PTDLA) provides financial assistance to help defray some of the costs of the Annual PTDL Training Conferences by collecting a fee from all conference attendees. The moneys collected will be deposited in the PTDLA treasury and then disbursed directly to the conference hotel to be applied to the total conference bill. **THIS IS A MANDATORY FEE**, and is paid at the following rate:

PTDLA Members	\$30.00 (includes \$10.00 membership fee)
Non-members	\$30.00



PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
TRAINING CONFERENCE XIX FEES, 1996/1997

CONFERENCE FEES:

PTDLA Members \$30.00 (includes \$10.00 membership fee)  
Non-members \$30.00

A PTDLA By-laws amendment was passed in 1992 that allows new members to pay the \$10.00 annual membership fee during the last quarter of the membership year – which runs from conference to conference – and have that membership be valid for the next year. Only individual memberships are permitted. There is no provision for institutional memberships covering all PTDL staff.

Please mail your check and the form below to Tracei Hale-Lee at the PTDL Program Office. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please direct them to Dave Morrison, PTDLA Treasurer at (801) 581-8394 or dmorriso@alexandria.lib.utah.edu.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

PTDL Location: \_\_\_\_\_

SELECT ONE:

1. PTDLA Membership Dues & Conference Fee: \$10.00 + \$20.00 = \$30.00
2. Conference fee for non-members: \$30.00

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to : PTDLA

Do not send cash. Do not make checks payable to PTDL Program.

Mail this form and your check to: Ms. Tracei Hale-Lee  
PTDL Program  
Crystal Park 3, Suite 481  
Washington, DC 20231

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PATENT & TRADEMARK DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
1996/97 MEMBERSHIP ONLY

Membership year is beginning of conference 1996 to beginning of conference 1997.

Mail to: Dave Morrison  
PTDLA Treasurer  
Documents Department  
Marriott Library  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dues are **\$10.00**.  
Please make checks payable to PTDLA and  
include the name of your PTDL on your check

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PTDL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Preference or Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have any interest in running for a PTDLA Office? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_